FRIDAY
August 23, 2024

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WAY OUT

Committee will look into farmers' woes: SC

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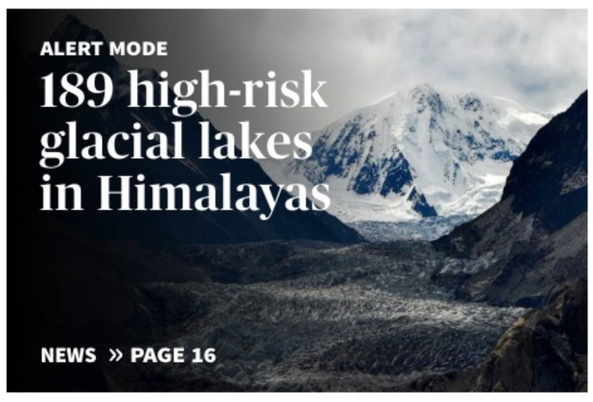

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Positive changes need to be welcomed

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BRIGHT START

Challengers get past Patriots in opener

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Tripura dam didn't cause Bangladesh floods: MEA

Protesters in Bangladesh blame India for deluge; MEA says Dumbur dam is 'auto releasing' water owing to heavy rain; Indian envoy meets Yunus, flags security threat to High Commission and staff

Jacob Koshy
Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI/DHAKA

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday denied that floods in eastern districts of Bangladesh were caused due to the opening of the Dumbur dam in Tripura.

The clarification comes after protesters in Bangladesh blamed India for floods in eastern districts, triggering security threats for the Indian High Commission in Dhaka.

Later in the day, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma met Chief Adviser to the interim government of Bangladesh, Mohammad Yunus, in Dhaka and expressed "concern" about the heightened security threats to the Indian mission and personnel based there.

Common concern: People wading through floodwaters in Feni, Bangladesh, on Thursday. AFP

Incorrect, says Ministry

"We have seen concerns being expressed in Bangladesh that the current situation of flood in districts on the eastern borders of Bangladesh has been caused by opening of the Dumbur dam upstream of the Gumti river in Tripura. This is factually not correct," the MEA said in a statement.

Western Tripura and parts of Bangladesh have been inundated with rain in the last few days and this was largely responsible for the flooding in downstream Bangladesh. The Dumbur dam, a hydropower project, had been "auto releasing" water as a consequence of the rainfall, the MEA statement noted.

The Dumbur dam is built on the Gumti river which flows through India and Bangladesh.

Tripura has witnessed heavy rain, with 'extremely heavy' rainfall being reported over southern and western parts from August 19 to 22, the India Meteorological Department said.

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State Cabinet recommends 'quick decision' by Governor on four senior NDA leaders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In its continued tug-of-war with Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, the State Cabinet on Thursday recommended a "quick decision" (by the Governor) on the matter of pending sanction for prosecution against four senior leaders of National Democratic Alliance (NDA), including Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy.

In what is being seen as a counter strategy of the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government, after the Governor gave sanction for prosecution against the Chief Minister in the alleged irregularities in distribution of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), the Cabinet recommended appropriate "quick action" against the Janata Dal (Secular) leader (H.D. Kumaraswamy), the former BJP Ministers Shashikala Jolle, Murugesh Nirani, and G. Janardhana Reddy against whom request for prosecution sanction is pending before the Governor.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil defended the recommendation at this point in time and insisted it is not vendetta politics.

He said that it stems from the public demand and that the government is taking appropriate measures. When asked if the government is confident of the Governor acting as per the Cabinet's advice, Mr. Patil said, "As we know, he is bound by the advice of the Cabinet. His discretion is limited. We expect him to use his discretion judiciously."

Awaiting Approval

Politician	Date of request	Request type
H.D. Kumaraswamy	21-11-2021	Section 19 of PC Act and Sec. 197 of Cr.PC, with chargesheet
Shashikala Jolle	09-12-2021	Prior approval under Section 17A of PC Act
Murugesh Nirani	26-02-2024	Prior approval under Section 17A of PC Act
G. Janardhana Reddy	13-05-2024	Sanction under Sec. 19 of PC Act and 197 of Cr.PC, with chargesheet

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NEARBY

Cabinet nod for tunnel road, skydeck projects

BENGALURU
The State Cabinet has given in-principal administrative approval for construction of a tunnel road, skydeck, and establishing 52 new Indira canteens in Bengaluru.
» Page 4

Sale of 3,666 acres to JSW Steel approved

BENGALURU
The State Cabinet on Thursday approved the execution of the absolute sale deed in favour of JSW Steel Ltd. for the extent of about 3,666 acres in Ballari district. » Page 8

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

Doctors call off strike as SC brokers peace

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Following the Supreme Court's appeal on Thursday, doctors across many States called off their strike against the brutal rape and murder of a trainee doctor at a Kolkata hospital.

During the day-long hearing, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud spoke about patients waiting for hours for a few minutes of medical care in public hospitals, and bystanders spending nights on the bare floor. "I know because I too had slept on the floor in a government hospital where a relative had been admitted... Doctors must come back to duty. How will public health infrastructure run without them?"he told the lawyers.

Doctors protest in Hyderabad on Thursday. G. RAMAKRISHNA

The three-judge Bench also comprised Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra. "Judges cannot give justice standing outside the court complex. Like that, doctors cannot treat patients outside hospitals... Justice and medicine cannot go on strike. Get back to work now," the Chief Justice urged doctors' associations and bodies that had moved the court.

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Food for thought

Risky feeding: Unmindful of health hazards, a young girl feeding pigeons during rains at Anand Nagar, in Ahmedabad on Thursday. Studies have indicated that continuous exposure to pigeons can lead to chronic lung diseases. VIJAY SONEJI

Water tariff hike in city inevitable: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday hinted at a hike in water tariff in the city soon. He said a hike in water tariff was inevitable due to the financial difficulties faced by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

'No hike in last 12 years'

Mr. Shivakumar said that BWSSB had not increased water tariff in the city for the past 12-13 years. "The BWSSB is struggling to manage its finances, making a water tariff hike unavoidable, regardless of any opposition," he said. "Without a tariff hike, the BWSSB may collapse, making it impossible to support its employees or even pay its electricity bills," Mr. Shivakumar argued, adding that there was a need to invest more on a larger water distribution network to supply water to Bengaluru's growing population of 1.4 crore.

Over the last decade, BWSSB proposed a tariff hike multiple times, but the State government did not approve the same. The last time, BWSSB proposed tariff revision in 2020, it asked for a hike of around 35%. However, the exact rate of the hike and the segments it will apply to have not yet been determined," Mr. Shivakumar said.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has opposed the proposed tariff hike.

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Battlefield provides no solution, says PM

Dinakar Peri
WARSAW

The ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia are a pressing concern for the global community and the loss of innocent lives in any crisis has become the biggest challenge for humanity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday as India and Poland announced the elevation of ties to a strategic partnership.

The countries agreed to formulate and execute a five-year action plan that will guide bilateral collaboration from 2024 to 2028 across several areas.

"This is India's firm belief that no problem can be solved on the battlefield. In any crisis, the loss of lives of innocent people has become the biggest challenge for the whole of humanity. We support dialogue and diplomacy for the early restoration of peace and stability," Mr. Modi said in remarks after the bilateral meeting with his Polish counterpart Donald Tusk. "For this, India, along with its friendly countries, is ready to provide all possible support."

Earlier, Mr. Modi was received by Mr. Tusk and was given a guard of honour.

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Cong., NC announce pre-poll tie-up in J&K

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The Congress and the National Conference (NC) have decided to forge a pre-poll alliance for the coming Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir.

Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi met NC president Farooq Abdullah and vice-president Omar Abdullah in Srinagar on Thursday to formalise the alliance.

"The alliance is on track. It will work successfully. The CPI(M)'s M.Y. Tarigami is also part of it. Seat-sharing has been finalised. It is for all 90 seats of J&K. People of J&K suffered immensely in the absence of an elected government for many years. We expect Statehood with all powers to be restored. We will fight for it," Mr. Farooq said, after meeting the Congress leaders at his residence here. He said the meeting with the Congress leaders was "held in a cordial manner".

He also hinted that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), once an ally of the NC in the Gupkar alliance, was unlikely to be part of the alliance.

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» PAGE 15

Cab ride to airport becomes expensive

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Your cab ride to the airport in Bengaluru has got pricier as the charges have been raised by cab aggregators following the Bangalore International Airport Ltd.'s (BIAL) decision to increase airport pickup fee as part of its concessionaire agreement renewal for Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

The increased charges imposed by BIAL are being passed directly to passengers by the cab aggregators, leading to higher fares for airport rides.

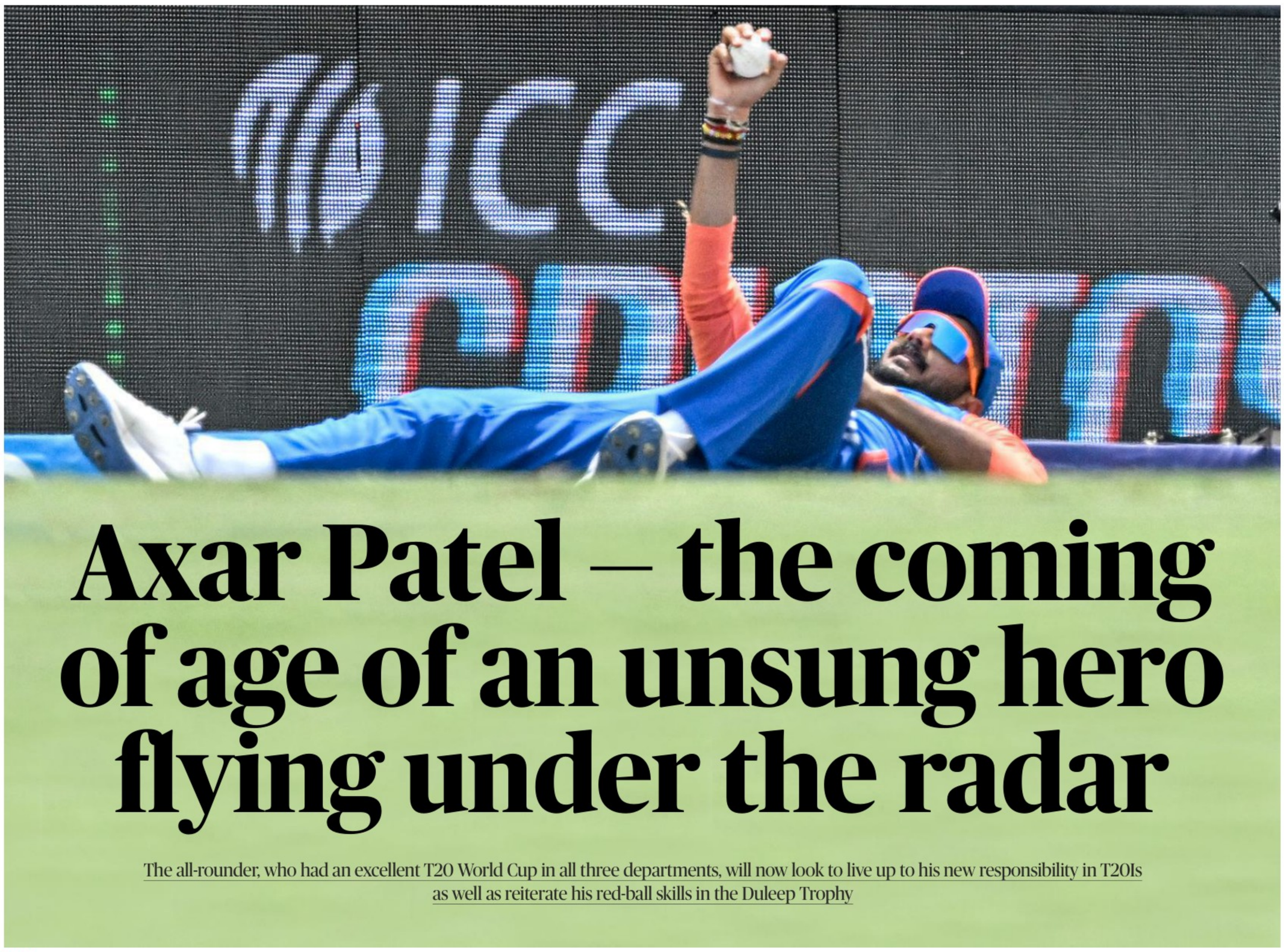
Uber has begun informing riders about the increased pickup fee at KIA. "For all airport trips taken on Uber, a pickup fee is charged as part of our commercial agreements with airports. This fee is passed on to the airport, Uber does not retain these charges. The pickup fee has recently been increased at the Bengaluru airport, leading to updated fares for these trips. For the purpose of transparency, we are informing our riders about the revised fares for airport trips. The estimated fare for any trip inclusive of our commission, and applicable taxes, is shown upfront at the time of booking to enable the rider to make an informed choice," the Uber spokesperson said.

Cab aggregators have raised the charges after BIAL's decision to increase airport pickup fee. FILE PHOTO

However, other airport cab aggregators, including KSTDC, Ola, Refex Mobility, WTI, COR, and Blusmart, have not yet commented on the renewal of concessionaire agreement by BIAL. When asked about the percentage increase in pickup charges, both BIAL and Uber declined to comment

In a statement, BIAL clarified that the authorised cab services at KIA include KSTDC, Ola, Uber, Refex Mobility, WTI, COR, and Blusmart. The BIAL spokesperson said: "All commercial partners including ground transport service providers at BIAL are appointed through tenders. The operators are selected through a robust techno-commercial bidding process, and the concession charges to BIAL are derived from their Business Plan during the tender process itself."

BIAL had announced plans to impose an entry fee for both private and commercial vehicles starting May 20, including charges for stay and overstay at the arrival pickup lanes at Terminals 1 and 2. However, this move was suspended following opposition from passengers and cab drivers.



Axar Patel — the coming of age of an unsung hero flying under the radar

The all-rounder, who had an excellent T20 World Cup in all three departments, will now look to live up to his new responsibility in T20Is as well as reiterate his red-ball skills in the Duleep Trophy

No fuss: Axar, the fielder, hasn't been celebrated as much as a few others. In the ICC T20 World Cup Super 8 match against Australia at St. Lucia, he leapt high to catch Mitchell Marsh and change the course of the match. K.R. DEEPAK

R. Kaushik

As his last ball of the tournament was blasted over cover by Heinrich Klaasen for a resounding four, Axar Patel's helplessness was reflected in his visage. Dazed, pale and overwhelmed, the all-rounder must have wondered if his, and India's, T20 World Cup campaign would be defined by that last delivery, by his final over.

South Africa began over 15 of their run-chase in the title clash needing 54 off 36 deliveries; six balls later, Klaasen had brought it down to 30 off 30, with six wickets standing, lacing the left-spinner for three sixes and a four. It was South Africa's game to win. Until it wasn't.

Through the extraordinary efforts of their three pacers – Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh and Hardik Pandya – India turned things around in spectacular fashion, their seven-run heist ensuring that Rohit Sharma became the first captain since Mahendra Singh Dhoni in 2013 to wrap his hands around an ICC trophy.

Axar must have experienced the same feeling of relief and elation that coursed through the Indian ranks, because going into those five overs, India must have been afflicted by a sense of *deja vu*.

Seven months previously, India had mounted a fabulous campaign in the 50-over home World Cup, carrying an unbeaten run into the final, only to be conquered by Australia at the last hurdle. They reprised that unbeaten run in the T20 World Cup, stacking up a seven-match winning streak heading into the title clash. At 30 needed off 30, India must have felt a strong sense of 'what-might-have-been'.

Axar, originally named in the 15, missed the 50-over World Cup through an injury sustained after the team was announced in Kandy in September. It must have been a crippling blow for the 30-year-old, just about trying to step out of the shadows of Ravindra Jadeja. In the Americas, he seemed doubly determined, therefore, to erase memories of disappointments past, which is why he deserved more than a defining over resulting in a heartbreaking defeat.

Daunting challenges

At the T20 World Cup, Axar was entrusted with numerous and daunting challenges, and he responded to each of them with great elan. He was pushed up the batting order more than once, including in the final, not because he was expected to have a dart or because his wicket was expendable, but because Rohit and Rahul Dravid believed in him.

They believed that he could address the situation. They believed that his defensive technique was good enough to negotiate the Pakistani pace threat on a dubious surface in New York. They believed that, despite the loss of three quick wickets in the title clash, he was skilled enough to take on the versatile South African attack. They believed that he was a star batter in his own right, not just an anonymous floater who might make the occasional impact.

Backing his left-arm spin

They also believed in his left-arm spin. For five matches from the time India moved to the Caribbean for the Super Eights and the knockouts, India fielded all three of their left-arm spinners. From the outside, that might have appeared excessive, but clearly, the think-tank knew what it was doing.

Kuldeep Yadav, the pixie wrist-spinner, wasn't required in the US where the pitches cried out for a pace-heavy attack, but in the West Indies, he was a shoo-in. Jadeja and Axar are both conventional finger-spinners, but they are also mighty fine batters and therefore were in the team as much for their tidiness with the ball as their firepower with the bat. And while they might have been plying the same craft, they were different types of bowlers.

Axar was at home bowling in the PowerPlay, using his height to good effect, going a little round-armish from time to time, and targeting the pads when being defensive was the need of the hour. Jadeja was used more sparingly – he only bowled 14 overs in the tournament to Axar's 22 – and by the end of the World Cup, no one was in any doubt about who the senior left-arm spinning all-rounder was.

Axar finished the World Cup with 92 runs at a strike-rate of 139.39 – the third best among Indian batters, behind Rohit and Pandya and ahead of even Suryakumar Yadav, who faced more than 25 balls – and nine wickets at an economy of 7.86, the highest among all Indian bowlers bar Shivam Dube (one over for 11 runs) but perfectly acceptable and understandable because he often bowled more than one over in the PowerPlay. If he flew a little under the radar, it was because he was upstaged by the brilliance of Bumrah, the pyrotechnics of Rohit, the return to run-scoring ways in the final of Virat Kohli and the all-round influence of Pandya.

Axar doesn't possess the same 'glamour quotient' as some of his colleagues, so from an outside perspective he might not receive the same attention and adulation, but within the confines of the dressing room, they view him as a champion not just because of his performances but also his attitude and his spirit.

Busting the myth

Take the final, for instance. After a roaring start that produced five fours in the first eight deliveries, India were rocked by the dismissals in 18 deliveries of Rohit, Rishabh Pant and Suryakumar.

From 23 without loss in 1.3 overs, India were staring down the barrel at 34 for three after 4.3; India were batting deep and still had Pandya, Jadeja and Dube in the hut, but it was Axar who was thrust up the order to No. 5, and he justified the move by dominating a stand of 72 with Kohli.

Take a pause and reflect on how often one can say that – dominating a stand with Kohli. That's precisely what Axar did, though the fact that Kohli went 35 deliveries in a row without striking a boundary did have something to do with it. By the time he was dismissed, run out in a rare display of slackness, he had slammed four sixes on his way to 47 off 31; three of those sixes were off spinners, but there was one towering stroke over long-on off Kagiso Rabada that, breathtaking as it was, emphatically demolished the myth that he could only take down spin.

Axar is not a great one for resounding statements, not with his mouth at least, but this was as good a reminder of his prowess as there could be.

Again, while Jadeja takes all the accolades on the field (rightly) and while Kohli's athleticism gets its due, Axar the fielder hasn't quite been celebrated as much. Against Australia in the final Super Eight game at the Daren Sammy Stadium, he pulled off an absolute screamer, leaping to his right at deep backward square, to pack off a marauding Mitchell Marsh, a huge factor in India nipping Australia's chase of 206 in the bud. Typically, Axar didn't go overboard because his middle name might as well be 'no-fuss'. That's how he has played his cricket all his life, and it's unlikely that after 10 years of international cricket, that's going to change.

First choice

What will change, however, is Axar's place in the hierarchy of the Indian team. Jadeja has retired from T20 Internationals, but even had the senior all-rounder been present, Axar would have supplanted him as the first choice; the two good mates will be involved in a battle for a place in the ODI XI, and Axar will be doubling down in his efforts to break back into the Test XI, too, especially at home.

After a fabulous start to his career which fetched him 27 wickets in his first three Tests, against England at home in early 2021, Axar's long-format career hasn't quite taken off as expected.

If anything, his batting down the order has been more effective than his left-arm spin; part of that is because he has had to play second (or is it third or even fourth?) fiddle to R. Ashwin, Jadeja and Kuldeep and therefore hasn't bowled as much as he would have liked, but the fact that he has taken more than one wicket in an innings just once in his last 11 bowls, all at home, can't be overlooked.

Kuldeep's excellent recent form across formats suggests that unless there is an injury somewhere, Axar will at best be a fringe participant in the five home Tests between September and November, though he will have the Duleep Trophy next month to reiterate his credentials as a wicket-taking red-ball bowler as well.

His immediate calling will be in the two white-ball formats where he is the premier spinning all-rounder, with Washington Sundar and Riyan Parag as his understudies.

Axar made his ODI debut as far back as in 2014 and his T20I debut transpired 13 months later, but due to various reasons, it's only in the last few years that he has got the opportunity to showcase his skills on the biggest stage with any regularity. To his credit, instead of moping and cribbing about having received the short end of the stick, he has stuck to his guns uncomplainingly. Patience is most certainly a virtue and no one has proved that more comprehensively than the unassuming 30-year-old from Anand. That he isn't milking his No. 1 white-ball all-rounder status is further credit to Axar, a shining example of letting his cricket do the talking and not spending too much time worrying about whether he is getting his due or not.

THE GIST

- Axar, originally named in the 15, missed the 50-over World Cup through an injury sustained after the team was announced in September
- In the Americas, he seemed doubly determined to erase memories of disappointments past
- The all-rounder doesn't possess the same 'glamour quotient' as some of his colleagues, but within the confines of the dressing room, they view him as a champion not just because of his performances but also his attitude and his spirit

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Women traffic police to join special drives, check violations at night

The new order follows the rape of a 21-year-old in the city, who was involved in a road accident minutes before she was assaulted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the wake of a series of incidents, including the rape of a 21-year-old student who was involved in a road accident minutes before the incident, the traffic police have decided to rope in women police force on night duty to assist their male counterparts to deal with special drives and traffic violations involving women.

Hitherto, women traffic police were not involved in night patrolling, unlike their counterparts in law and order.

M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic, issued a order on Wednesday, directing the station-in-charge to deploy two women personnel of the rank of head constable and constable at every station compulsorily to assist the male counterparts in cases related to violations or violence involving women at night time.

"There was a need as part of the SoP for enhancing and ensuring safety of women and responding to women who are in distress. Hence, the decision to deploy women personnel in night duty," he said. The decision also helps the traffic police who are relaunching special drives on drunk drivers, which have

Until now, women traffic police were not involved in night patrolling, unlike their counterparts in law and order. FILE PHOTO

The order directs the station-in-charge to deploy two women personnel at every station compulsorily to assist the male counterparts

to be taken at the jurisdiction level every weekend from Thursday to Sunday.

So far, the traffic police on special drive had to seek the help of women officers to come to the spot or seek the help of neighbouring law and order stations for women personnel, while dealing with drunk driving and traffic violations involving women. This would delay the process further. With this decision, the women police personnel will be readily available at the station to address any eventualities related to women, a police officer said.

Unpopular among women

The city has 50 traffic police stations, with 20% of the workforce comprising women staff. The decision has become unpopular among the women staff, another police officer added.

The incident of rape, reported in HSR Layout, involved an accident minutes before the survivor was assaulted. The chain of events could have been handled better if there were women police personnel on night rounds on traffic duty, the officer added.

First-of-its-kind battery-powered EV charging station to come up near airport

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) will now make use of second-life batteries (batteries which will be used for different applications after their initial life cycle is over) of vehicles to store solar energy which can power an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station.

In coordination with GIZ and Nunam, German-based companies, a pilot project is being set up around 1.5 km away from Kempegowda International Airport in Devanahalli. While the companies will be investing in the rooftop solar system and batteries, Bescom will provide all other infrastructure.

"We have a 220 kV Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (KPTCL) station near the airport where we will set up the station. Twenty-four vehicles can be charged in the EV station at once," said a senior official from Bescom.

Karnataka has the highest number of public EV charging stations in the country ahead of States like Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi. FILE PHOTO

The EV charging station will have a rooftop solar installation, which will power the station during solar hours. "There will be two stacks of batteries (each stack will have 18 batteries) with a total capacity of 45 kVA in which excess solar energy will be stored. This energy will be used to power the station during non-solar hours."

While solar-powered EV stations have been set up before, second-life batteries have never been used to store energy and supply it to the station, according to the Bescom official.

The project is expected to be completed in another 15 to 20 days. "Around 80% of the work is already completed and it will soon be open for public use," the official said. Depending on how the project works out and the response, Bescom will decide about replicating it in other places.

The Energy Department had recently announced that Karnataka has the highest number (5,765) of public EV charging stations in the country ahead of States like Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi. Out of these, 4,462 stations are in Bengaluru Urban district.

Air India adds more flights to Kolkata

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Air India on Thursday announced that it will temporarily operate additional flights to Kolkata from Bengaluru to meet greater travel demand to the city during Durga Puja festivities.

Starting September 20, Air India will operate daily, non-stop flights to Kolkata from Bengaluru and Hyderabad for nearly a month.

Air India increased frequency to Kolkata from Delhi from August 15, and from Mumbai effective September 25. Flight AI524 from Bengaluru to Kolkata will depart at 12.10 p.m. five days a week except Sunday when departure is at 11.55 a.m. and arrive in Kolkata at 12.35 p.m. Flight AI526 from Kolkata will depart at 8.40 p.m. and arrive in Bengaluru at 10.40 p.m.

Two auxiliary bishops appointed for the first time in 54 years

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

For the first time in 54 years, the Archdiocese of Bangalore has appointed two auxiliary bishops, Arokiaraj Satis Kumar and Joseph Susainathan, to aid the Archbishop of Bengaluru Reverend Dr. Peter Machado in his duties.

The Archdiocese has 110 parishes, over 500 schools, colleges and technical institutes, as well as numerous healthcare facilities under its wing. Alongside their administration, constructing houses for Karnataka flood victims in 2018-19, helping around 38,000 families during the pandemic and numerous other initiatives, the church has seen increased administrative responsibilities placed on the Archbishop, leading to the appointment of the auxiliary bishops.

Ordination ceremony

The auxiliary bishops will be ordained in a ceremony on Saturday, August 24, at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. The service will be from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. with 15 to 20 bishops from across the country expected to attend.

This will be followed by a public reception and lunch for all attendees.

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our clients intend to purchase the below mentioned schedule properties its lawful owners viz., **Sri N. Aswathnarayana,** S/o Late Nanjundappa, **2. Sri N. Manjunath,** S/o Late Nanjundappa, **3. Sri N.Girishkumar,** S/o Late Nanjundappa, **4. Kum. Bhagyamma,** D/o Late Nanjundappa, Dump represented by her mother **Smt. Lakshmamma** W/o Late Nanjundappa **5. Smt. Lakshmamma,** W/o Late M.Nanjundappa 1 to 5 are all residing at No.11, 2nd Main Road, 2nd Stage, Vijayanagara, Bangalore - 560 040, Any person or persons. Banks, Financial Institutions, etc., having any valid right, title, interest or any claim over the schedule properties or any portions of it in any manner may with documentary evidence lodge their objections / claims **within 10 days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, if no valid objections are received, my clients shall proceed on the basis of that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the schedule properties.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

Item No.1: Property by Sy.No 41/1 measuring to an extent of 0.22 guntas situated at Chikkalur Village, Tavarekere Hobli Bangalore South, Bounded on **East by:** Land in Sy. No. 42, **West by:** Land in Sy. No. 84, **North by**: Government road and **South by:** land in Sy. No.42.

Item No.2: Land bearing Sy. No. 41/2 measuring to and extent of 30 guntas situated at Chikkalur Village, Tavarekere Hobli Bangalore South Taluk, bounded on **East by**: Land in Sy. No. 42, **West by:** Sy. No.42. **North by:** Land in Sy. No 41/1 and **South by:** land in Sy. No.41/3

D. Umashankar, Advocate,
No.L-114, 1st Floor, Maruthi Market,
Avenue Road, Bangalore-560 002.
Mobile No.8147112011/9448408553

भारतीय खाद्य निगम **FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA**
REGIONAL OFFICE : No. 10, EAST END MAIN ROAD, 4th 'T' BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, BENGALURU - 560041

सं. आरओ केए-32.0013.0/4/2024-सीओएन-आरओ केए दिनांक: 22.08.2024
No. RO KA-32.0013.0/4/2024-CON-RO KADate: 22.08.2024

ई-निविदा सूचना / e-Tender Notice

जेम पोर्टल के माध्यम से "दो बोली प्रणाली"के तहत, दो वर्ष हेतु 1) एफएसडी केआरपीजी में एचसी, 2) एफएसडी मद्दुर में एचटीसी, और 3) आरएच / एफएसडी नंजनगुड से एफएसडी मीनांगडी तक आरटीसी, के लिए ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जा रही है। ऑनलाइन बोलियां **13.09.2024** को अपराह्न **02:00 बजे** तक प्रस्तुत की जानी हैं।
एनआईटी और निविदा प्रपत्र "www.fci.gov.in" और **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर उपलब्ध हैं। पंजीकरण, प्रशिक्षण और बोलियों को ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करने के लिए, निविदाकारों को **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर देखने का अनुरोध किया जाता है।
Online Tender for regular **1)** HC at FSD KRPG, **2)** HTC at FSD Maddur, and **3)** RTC from RH/FSD Nanjangud to FSD Meenangadi for two years is invited under "Two Bid System" through GeM portal.Bid should be submitted online within **2.00 PM on 13.09.2024.** NIT and tender forms are available in **"www.fci.gov.in" &"https://gem.gov.in".** For registration, training and submitting bids online, tenderers are requested to visit **https://gem.gov.in.**

महाप्रबंधक (कर्नाटक)
GENERAL MANAGER (Karnataka)

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
K KAMARAJ ROAD, BANGALORE-42
Tele No : 080-25581238
www.apsbangalore.edu.in
LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION – **29 AUG 2024 (1000HRS)**

TENDERS ARE INVITED FOR THE WORK/SUPPLY/INSTALLATION AT ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, K KAMARAJ ROAD, BANGALORE-42

Tender No	Description of Work
APS/184/2024-25	Laying of concrete pathway with Side edging from School building to connecting sports complex area approx. 5000 Sqft
APS/185/2024-25	Purchase of New Library Books

Details of the work is available in school website. Please submit sealed quotation super scribed on the envelope "**TENDER FOR_____**" to reach at ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, KAMARAJ ROAD, BANGALORE on or before **29 Aug 2024** by 1000hrs.

Government of Tamil Nadu
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department

Notice Inviting Tenders
for Supply of Steel rods for the year 2024-25

1. For full details, visit **www.tntenders.gov.in**
2. e-Bids are invited by the Additional Collector(Dev)/ Project Director, DRDA of all Districts of Tamil Nadu state (except Chennai) under two cover system, for supply of Steel rods for the year 2024-25.
3. The bid documents can be downloaded free of cost from **www.tntenders.gov.in** from **29.08.2024 to 12.09.2024.**
4. Common date and time for downloading of Bid document, submission and opening:
   (i) Last Date and Time for downloading and Online Submission of Bid Documents : **12.09.2024 Upto 3.00 PM**
   (ii) Date and Time of online opening of Bid Documents : **12.09.2024 4.00 PM onwards**

Director
DIPR/3235/Tender/2024 **Rural Development and Panchayat Raj.**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. 14 UBL 2024-25
Dated: 16-08-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

SL	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	Testing of Emergency Communication Sockets (EMC) as per schedule over Hubballi Division for period of two year.	Rs. 51,58,690.56
2	Bannihatti - Provision of sand hump on Rd-1 towards Ranjitpura and overshoot line on Road No. 1 towards Tornagallu end.	Rs. 10,47,541.14

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 17-09-2024

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Hubballi
PUB/359/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: 20-MYS-2024
Dated: 12.08.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.No.	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	15T EOT Crane **(Tender No.: L9245207A)**	Rs. 51,50,000/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 18.09.2024

Sl.No.	Name of work	Approx. Value
2	5 Watt VHF Digital Walkie Talkie Set **(Tender No.: L9245265B)**	Rs. 1,31,70,000/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 03.09.2024

Sl.No.	Name of work	Approx. Value
3	Air Compressor with Air Drier. **(Tender No.: L9245808)**	Rs. 39,48,000/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 29.08.2024

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Materials Manager/ Mysuru
PUB/349/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Employees' State Insurance Corporation
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)
MEDICAL COLLEGE, PGIMSR & HOSPITAL
Sedam Road, Kalaburagi, Karnataka - 585106
Phone: 08472-265546/47/48, E-mail: deanmc-gb.kar@esic.nic.in

NOTICE

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR ENGAGEMENT OF PROFESSOR, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, SENIOR RESIDENT & PART TIME SUPER SPECIALIST

Walk-in-Interview for engagement on contract basis for the post of Professor, Associate Professor **(One Year/Three Year)**, Senior Resident **(One Year)** & Part Time Super Specialist **(One Year)** on **28.08.2024 (Document Verification) & 29.08.2024 (Walk-in-interview)** will be conducted at ESIC Medical College & Hospital, Kalaburagi. For further details, please visit our web site: www.esic.nic.in/recruitment.

Sd/-
DEAN

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, गढ़वा

मुख्यमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना
अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–निविदा संख्या – 28-RI/2023-24/RWD/GARHWA दिनांक – 21.08.2024

1. कार्य का विवरण :–

क्र0	प्रखण्ड	आईडेन्टी फिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि अंक में (लाख में)	प्राक्कलित राशि अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	मेराल	RWD/GARHWA/7 9/2023-24 (2nd Call)	चिनियाँ मुख्य पथ रूपन उराँव के घर से लखुराम के घर तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (2.900 कि0मी0)	320.871	तीन करोड़ बीस लाख सतासी हजार एक सौ रूपये।	15 (पन्द्रह) महीना
2	गढ़वा	RWD/GARHWA/ 84/2023-24 (2nd Call)	एन0एच0–343 मुख्य पथ से टोंगरी टोला होते हुए लोटो प्राथमिक विद्यालय तक पथ निर्माण। (2.270 कि0मी0)	255.884	दो करोड़ पचपन लाख अठासी हजार चार सौ रूपये।	15 (पन्द्रह) महीना

2. वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :– 24.08.2024
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :– 29.08.2024 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– 31.08.2024 पूर्वाह्न 11:30 बजे।
5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रा0का0वि0 कार्य प्रमंडल, गढ़वा।
6. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0: 06561–299963
   विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
PR.NO.333370 Rural Work Department(24-25):D **ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, गढ़वा**

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, गढ़वा

मुख्यमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना
अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–निविदा संख्या – 13/2024-25/RWD/GARHWA दिनांक – 21.08.2024

1. कार्य का विवरण :–

क्र0	प्रखण्ड	आईडेन्टी फिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि अंक में (लाख में)	प्राक्कलित राशि अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	गढ़वा	RWD/GARHWA/29/2024-25	एन0एच0–75 से छत्तरपुर ग्राम तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (9.07 कि0मी0)	1033.934	दस करोड़ तेतीस लाख तिरानबे हजार चार सौ रूपये।	18 (अठारह) महीना
2	मेराल	RWD/GARHWA/30/2024-25	रजबन्धा पी0एम0जी0एस0वाई0 रोड देवी मण्डप से भण्डार बस्ती होते हुए भण्डार स्कूल तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (3.230 कि0मी0)	395.276	तीन करोड़ पन्चानबे लाख सतईस हजार छः सौ रूपये।	18 (अठारह) महीना
3	मेराल	RWD/GARHWA/31/2024-25	गढ़वा मझिआँव मुख्य पथ अटौला स्टैण्ड से कुम्हार टोली होते हुए औरईया मोड़ पी0डब्लू0डी0 तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (2.450 कि0मी0)	295.987	दो करोड़ पन्चानबे लाख अन्ठानबे हजार सात सौ रूपये।	15 (पन्द्रह) महीना

2. वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :– 27.08.2024
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :– 02.09.2024 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– 04.09.2024 पूर्वाह्न 11:30 बजे।
5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रा0का0वि0 कार्य प्रमंडल, गढ़वा।
6. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0: 06561–299963
   विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, गढ़वा

PR 333371 Rural Work Department (24-25)_D

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients **Sri K. S. R. Ramanathan S/o K. S. Ramalingam and Sri. G.Sukumar S/o G. Govindarajan,** have filed a Suit against Sri Gangaiah and his children and **Sri Dr.K.Jayachandra S/o Venkataramana Raju and Sri C.Venkatachalapathi S/o Late Chinappa,** seeking direction to the aforementioned persons to execute a sale deed in favour of our Clients in terms of the Agreement to Sale dated 10.08.2011 and Confirmation of Sale Agreement dated 19.08.2023 and for such other reliefs with respect to Schedule Property vide O.S. No. 53/2024 on the file of III Addl. Senior Civil Judge, Devanahalli.
Further, Gangaiah and his children have fraudulently executed a sale deed dated 21.12.2022 in favour of Sri C.Venkatachalapathi with respect to Schedule Property and Sri Dr.K.Jayachandra appears to have executed a Deed of Confirmation dated 28.12.2023 in favour of Sri C.Venkatachalapathi. The sale deed dated 21.12.2022 and Confirmation Deed dated 28.12.2023 are forged, sham and illegal transactions and do not confer any right whatsoever in favour of Sri C.Venkatachalapathi and the said documents have been questioned in O.S. No. 53/2024. An FIR has been registered in Crime No. 185/2023 against Gangaiah, his children and Sri C.Venkatachalapathi on account of their fraudulent acts with respect to Schedule Property.
The General Public are hereby informed that our clients are the agreement holders in respect of Schedule Property and have a rightful claim over the Schedule Property. In view of the pendency of our Clients' rightful claim in OS No. No. 53/2024, the General Public are hereby cautioned from dealing with the aforementioned Sri C.Venkatachalapathi S/o Late Chinappa, with respect to the Schedule Property in any manner whatsoever. Any person/s who deal with the said Schedule Property will do so at their own risk and the same will not bind our clients to any extent whatsoever.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece, part and parcel of Immovable Agricultural Property bearing Old **Sy. No.35, New Sy. No.80** situated at **Meesiganahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru District,** total measuring **6 acres 11 guntas (out of 8 acres,** excluding an extent of **1 acre and 25 guntas** which is already sold to various persons), bounded by-
East by: Narayanamma & Nanjamariyappa; West by: BIAPPA Approved Layout In Sy. Nos.68 & 69; North by Existing 9 metre width road under panchayath widen to 15.0 metres and balance land in Sy. No.80; and South by: Basavaraju and Pattalappa's Lands

Yeshu Mishra, Advocate,
M/s. Haranahalli Law Partners LLP
#160, 'ANANTHA", Level III,
R.T Nagar Main Road, MLA Layout,
Bengaluru – 560 032

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, लातेहार।
शुद्धि –पत्र

अल्पकालिन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या–EE/RDSD/LATEHAR/11/2024-25 जिसका PR NO- 332873 Rural Development(24-25)D में निम्न प्रकार आंशिक संशोधित किया जाता है:–

(1) क्रमांक–2. में अंकित वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 13.08.2024 के स्थान पर वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 23.08.2024 पढ़ा जाय।
(2) क्रमांक–3. में अंकित ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि दिनांक 13.08.2024 से दिनांक 27.08.2024 के स्थान पर ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि दिनांक–23.08.2024 से दिनांक–31.08.2024 पढ़ा जाय।
(3) क्रमांक–5. में अंकित ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि दिनांक–29.08.2024 के स्थान पर ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि–दिनांक–04.09.2024 पढ़ा जाय।
निविदा की अन्य शर्तें पूर्ववत रहेगी।

PR 333376 Rural Development(24-25)D

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशष प्रमण्डल,लातेहार।

Mukhyamantri Laghu Evam Kutir Udyam Vikas Board
(Government of Jharkhand Undertaking)
4th Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Ratu Road, Ranchi 834001

Corrigendum

Ref. No: 710 Date: 22.08.2024

Subsequent to the discussion held in the pre-bid meeting on 12.08.2024 for E - Tender Advt. PR No: 332083 dated 07.08.2024 **for Supply, installation and commissioning of machines and equipment for the Gold and Silver Jewellery cluster at Sukrigarha, Ramgarh, Jharkhand**, certain modifications in technical specification sheet (Annexure – II) and terms & conditions have been made in the bid document.

Detailed changes in the terms & conditions may be seen on the website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in / http://mmlkuvb.jharkhand.gov.in

PR 333404 Mukhyamantri Laghu And Kutir Udyam Vikas Board (24-25)_D

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer

Contact Detail: Mukhyamantri Laghu evam Kutir Udyam Vikas Board
4th Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Ratu Road, Ranchi – 834001 (Jharkhand)
Email- contact.cmlaghukutir@gmail.com, Phone: 9102467777, 9262219999

Government of Karnataka - Karnataka Forest Department
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Sagar Forest Division, Sagar-577401.
Ph: 08183 226071 e-mail: Sagardcf123@gmail.com
No.: B5/SAS/e-Auction/CR-11/2024-25 Date: 19.08.2024

Brief Tender Notice Regarding Disposal of Forest Produce like Timber/Fire Wood/Billets/Poles Through e-Auction

Date is fixed on 09.09.2024 for disposal through e-Auction of Forest Produce like Timber/Fire Wood/Billets/Poles available in the Govt. Timber Depot of Hosanagara Zone coming under the limits of Sagar Forest Division. The said e-auction sale Notice was published in letter of this office even No. Date: 16.08.2024 and interested purchasers can participate in the e-Auction subject to all the conditions mentioned in the said Notice and purchase the Lots put up for auction. Further details regarding information related to e-Auction can be obtained through Karnataka Government's Official website www.mstecommrce.com and www.etimber.in

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sagar Division, Sagar

DIPR/smg/ksmca/24-25/125/08/527

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD Ramanagara Special Division, Ramanagara.

Short Term Tender Notification No. : 09/2024-25 Date : 21-08-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited in **Two Cover System** from the eligible contractors for **09 works of Rs. 225.00 Lakhs to 500.00 Lakhs** through e-procurement portal as per the Standard Bid Documents. The eligible contractors can participate in this tender through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

1) Documents may be Downloaded from 26-08-2024 to 03-09-2024, 2) Last Date for Submission of Tender 03-09-2024 upto 16.00 hours. 3) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting : 30-08-2024 at 11.30 hours, 4) Date of Opening of Technical Bid 04-09-2024 (If possible) at 16.30 hours.

Tender Processing Fees, EMD as per E-procurement. For more information contact the undersigned during Office Hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD, Special Division, Ramanagara.

DIPR/Ramanagar/264/Manipal/2024-25

When sweltering heat turns public hospitals into potential 'death traps'

India's public health infrastructure is crumbling under the sheer volume of sick people and this might have unintended consequences for people in the current heatwave India is experiencing; this phenomenon disproportionately affects poor and marginalised communities who have no access to cooling devices

Christianez Ratna Kiruba

Come with me to a busy outpatient clinic at a public hospital in rural Andhra Pradesh. There is a sea of waiting patients. Some are on chairs, most on the floor, waiting to be called in by the doctor. People on the floor talk, eat, and some even nap as they wait. Oppressive heat, along with the smell and feel of sweat, pervade the atmosphere.

In a small consultation room two doctors attend to a patient. In the corner, another doctor treats a patient. Outside the door stand a multitude of patients. Every now and then someone peeks in and asks, "Doctor, when will my turn come?"

Looking around, we notice there are no windows. An old fan rattles overhead, recirculating the same overheated air. While the doctors can take breaks in their air-conditioned duty room, patients have no such respite.

A similar stifling environment is replicated in other places across the country, as Joseph can testify.

"I accompanied my relative to his appointment at the B. Baruah cancer centre in Guwahati," says Mr. Joseph (name changed). "The hospital waiting room was overcrowded and extremely humid because everybody there was sweating. Soon enough, I started having a headache and muscle cramps. My body temperature rose too. I had to go out to a different clinic to consult a doctor and they diagnosed me with heat exhaustion. I was admitted and given paracetamol along with saline injections. Only after some time did I feel better," he adds.

Failing infastructure

India's public health infrastructure is crumbling under the sheer volume of sick people and this might have unintended consequences for people in the current heatwave India is experiencing.

This year, India is experiencing its longest and deadliest heatwave in the past 15 years with some parts of North India hitting record-high temperatures. This heat wave disproportionately affects the poor and marginalised communities who have no access to cooling devices. While several forms of inequalities have been exposed by the current heatwave – such as occupational inequality and gender inequality, it is also important to talk about how economically-weaker sections of the community who seek healthcare from the public sector are exposed to heat-related illnesses within the premises of these clinics and hospitals.

"My father was admitted to the general ward of a hospital because he had a fever and stomach pain sometime back," says Muniamma, a daily wage labourer from Vellore, South India. "The doctors told me that he had a kidney infection and they were treating it with injections with which he was getting better. Suddenly his fever returned and he started speaking incoherently. Initially, the doctors did a lot of tests but then they realised that it was heat related as it was peak summer."

A motorcyclist on a hot summer evening in New Delhi. AFP

Ms. Muniamma's father, though he was admitted with a different ailment, developed a heat-related illness as he lay in the hospital bed in the overcrowded and poorly ventilated hospital ward. "The doctors tried their best," says Muniamma who had to then sit with her father day and night spraying cold water from a spray bottle onto every bit of exposed skin. "They gave him saline injections which were cooled in a refrigerator. They asked us to bring a few table fans which we placed around him. We also kept trying to cool him by placing ice cubes in his armpits and such. But he did not get better. His kidneys failed due to the heat and he died," she recounts sadly.

Killer heat

Just like Muniamma, Kumari from Vellore too has lost an uncle to heat illness in a poorly ventilated ward. "He had some mental illness and would always be sad or crying, so we showed him to a psychiatrist and got him medicine. However, after a suicide attempt, we rushed him to a hospital where they put a tube in his nose and gave him injections and medications. He started gaining consciousness and was getting better when he started having a fever. The doctors initially said that he might have caught an infection from the other patients. But all the tests were negative. That is when we realised that it might have been the heat, as it was scorching. He was treated for heat-related illness but he did not recover," she says, "I am truly sad that my uncle died of something that was not even his initial problem. But what can we do? We can only afford to come to a government hospital and we know how overcrowded and hot it can get," she adds.

> They gave him saline cooled in a refrigerator. We brought table fans which we placed around him. We also kept trying to cool him by placing ice cubes in his armpits. But his kidneys failed due to the heat and he died,

While the news of heat-related deaths is making headlines daily, there is reason to believe that the numbers may be underreported due to several logistical reasons. Known reasons include decreased knowledge among healthcare professionals about when to report and inadequate autopsy services to prove heat-related deaths, patients developing heat-related illness after admission to a hospital for a different illness are lesser-known reasons for the underreporting. For instance, in the past two examples, cause of death may be mentioned as urinary tract infection and suicidal poisoning despite the reason being heat.

According to Anand Zachariah, consultant physician, CMC Vellore, people who come to hospitals for certain illnesses are more vulnerable to heat-related illnesses. "Especially when someone has a fever due to any infection, it is very important for them to dissipate heat from their bodies via sweating. However, if the ambient heat in the hospital ward is high, they will not be able to do so. This puts them at a very high risk for developing heat exhaustion," he says. Alongside this, older individuals, individuals with any longstanding illnesses and skin conditions which cause issues with sweating may also be at risk according to a paper co-authored by Dr. Zachariah.

According to Aditi Dandawate, a paediatrician at Cooper Hospital, Mumbai, such issues can be very common in newborns and children admitted for other reasons. "Considering the high temperatures in Mumbai, we always keep our eyes peeled for dehydration in children. We advise mothers to dress their children in the bare minimum clothing. We also ensure adequate hydration," she adds.

Improving amenities

While these are individual measures taken at the level of the treating doctors, it is not enough to combat the systemic failings of poor infrastructure of the healthcare system and the ever-looming problem of climate change at large. Hospitals, for one, need to have a strategy in place every year as to how they would deal with such occurrences. This year some hospitals including Tirunelveli Medical College, RML Hospital Delhi, GRH Madurai etc. have started air-conditioned wards to admit and treat heat stroke patients, but these measures fall short on the prevention front. CMC Vellore has prepared a protocol for its doctors which disseminates information about how heat stroke can develop while in hospital. The document shows the signs the doctors must look out for and cautions them as to which kinds of patients are at risk for the same.

"On top of this, it is important to ensure further changes at the level of the hospital like providing shade for patients to wait, keeping pots of water or water dispensers in outpatient areas, measures to cut the time patients must stand in queues etc," says Dr. Zachariah.

(Assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts is available on the State's health helpline 104, Tele-MANAS 14416 and Sneha's suicide prevention helpline 044-24640050. Helplines across the country can be accessed here.)

(Dr. Christianez Ratna Kiruba is an internal medicine doctor with a passion for patient rights advocacy. christianezdennis@gmail.com)

THE GIST

- Heat-related deaths are likely being underreported. Reasons include lack of knowledge among healthcare professionals and inadequate autopsy services. Also patients developing heat-related illness after admission for a different illness can cause underreporting
- People who come to hospitals for certain illnesses are more vulnerable to heat-related illnesses. If someone has a fever it is very important to dissipate heat via sweating. However, if the ambient heat in the hospital ward is high, they will not be able to do so. This puts them at high risk of heat exhaustion
- Individual measures taken by doctors cannot cope with systemic failings of poor health infrastructure and the problem of climate change at large. Hospitals need to have a strategy in place every year to deal with such occurrences

BIG SHOT

A paramedic prepares an isolation ward set up as a preventative measure affter Pakistan's health ministry confirmed a case of monkey pox in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, at a hospital in Karachi on Thursday. AP

What is vaccine-derived polio?

Priyali Prakash

EXPLAINER

The story so far: A two-year-old child in Tikrikilla, Meghalaya, has been infected with vaccine-derived polio. This is not a case of wild poliovirus, but an infection that presents in some people with low immunity, the Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday, August 20.

"The two-year-old child from Tikrikilla was found to have symptoms of poliomyelitis more than a week ago. The child was diagnosed with acute flaccid paralysis at a hospital in Assam's Goalpara," Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said. Officials in the State's West Garo Hills district are on high alert following the confirmation of the case.

Vaccine-derived polio

Vaccine-derived polio is a rare condition that occurs when the weakened (also called attenuated) strain of poliovirus used in the oral polio vaccine (OPV) mutates and regains the ability to cause paralysis.

OPV contains a live, attenuated virus that is used for immunisation against the disease. This weakened virus triggers an immune response when administered, thus protecting people from the disease. The attenuated virus replicates in the intestines for a limited period and is excreted in the stool. In rare cases, the virus can mutate enough to cause the disease again and circulate in areas where either immunisation is low, where immunocompromised people reside, or where sanitation and hygiene are poor. This is how vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV) spreads. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the virus is classified as "circulating" (cVDPV2) if it is detected in at least two different sources, at least two months apart, that are genetically linked, showing evidence of transmission in the community.

Oral polio drops being administered. FILE PHOTO

Types of poliovirus

Polioviruses are enteroviruses that are transmitted primarily by the faecal-oral route. Three types – wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1), wild poliovirus type 2 (WPV2), and wild poliovirus type 3 (WPV3) – have been known to exist. Symptomatically, all these strains are identical.

More about vaccines

The first successful polio vaccine for poliovirus was made by Jonas Salk in the early 1950s. Salk inactivated the virus using formaldehyde and injected it into the muscles of test subjects. This inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) induced systemic immunity (relating to the blood, brain, and all other organ systems) in the subjects.

After Salk, Albert Sabin developed another vaccine that contained live polio strains weakened by growing them serially in macaque cells, making them unfit for human infection. Since this vaccine contained the live virus, it had to be administered through its natural mode of infection – in this case, oral. This is what we today know as the OPV.

OPV is usually preferred over IPV because of its ease of administration – it does not require syringes or medical training and is inexpensive. However, the weakened virus in OPV can occasionally revert, causing the disease it is meant to prevent. IPV, on the other hand, is a less potent vaccine, but contains inactivated virus particles and hence has no risk of causing vaccine-associated paralytic poliomyelitis (VAPP) – a rare, adverse reaction to OPV. IPV is comparatively tougher to manufacture, too, as it contains a chemically inactivated virus.

On World Polio Day, October 24, 2019, the WHO declared that WPV3 has been eradicated worldwide. The last case was detected in Nigeria in 2012, the WHO said. WPV2 was officially declared eradicated in 2015. However, more than 90% of vaccine-derived poliovirus outbreaks are due to the type 2 virus present in oral polio vaccines. VAPP constitutes 40% of cases caused by the type 2 oral polio vaccine. Many cases of VAPP from the type 3 virus also occur in countries using OPV.

The Indian government does not count VAPP as polio since these cases are sporadic and pose little or no threat to others, even though the number of VAPP-compatible cases showed a rising trend.

After the global switch from trivalent (containing all three variants) to bivalent (type 1 and type 3) oral polio vaccine in 2016 to prevent any more type 2 vaccine-derived poliovirus, the number of vaccine-derived type 2 poliovirus outbreaks has only increased sharply.

The WHO authorised a genetically modified type 2 novel oral polio vaccine under Emergency Use Listing in November 2020, it was first used in the field in March 2021, and received WHO prequalification in December 2023. The vaccine is less likely to revert to neurovirulence unlike the Sabin vaccine and therefore cause less type 2 VDPV.

(priyali.prakash@thehindu.co.in)

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Mrs. Kalpana Arvind
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Outstanding Scientist
Associate Director at LEOS-ISRO
Bengaluru

Mr. Suresh Muthuswami
1983 - 1986 MCA
Chairman of North America
Tata Consultancy Services
New Jersey, USA

Mr. Albert Thomas
1987 - 1991 BE (Production)
Industry Supply Chain Executive
Oracle, Atlanta, USA

Mr. Leela Kaza
1987 - 1992 BE SW (Mech)
Founder & Co - Chief Executive Officer
Bounteous x Accolite, Dallas, USA

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Foreigners detected in FT in Assam from 1971 to 2014

47,928 In a written reply to a query by AGP MLA Ponakan Baruah, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the Foreigners Tribunal (FT) detected the highest number of foreigners in Cachar. PTI

Hydropower projects damaged due to flash floods in Himachal

14 Hydroelectric projects in Himachal Pradesh have suffered damage due to flash floods since July 25, with some being affected multiple times over the past 10 years. Experts are calling for disaster risk analyses to be conducted. PTI

Number of Palestinians killed in Gaza since October 7

40,265 The toll includes 42 deaths in the previous 24 hours, according to the Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza. At least 93,144 people have been wounded in the Gaza Strip. AFP

People staying in relief camps due to heavy rains in Tripura

65,400 At least 12 people have died and two others went missing in Tripura following heavy rainfall in the past few days. Thousands have taken shelter at 450 relief camps in the State. PTI

Decline in number of Indian students going to U.K. for studies

23 in per cent. The latest Home Office statistics revealed that Indians are beginning to show signs of being put off applying to U.K. universities amid greater migration curbs. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

A look at ongoing Indian space missions

Over the past year, ISRO has made significant strides with several key missions; the Aditya L1 spacecraft began studying solar radiation from the earth-Sun Lagrange point, while the Gaganyaan TV-D1 mission successfully demonstrated crew safety systems

FULL CONTEXT

Pradeep Mohandas

The story so far:

After a busy 2023, things have been quiet at Sriharikota, India's spaceport. But silence here doesn't mean India's space programme itself has been dormant. A lot has been happening since the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully landed the lander of its Chandrayaan 3 mission, Vikram, on the surface of the moon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared this date, August 23, India's National Space Day.

Highlights in the last year

Aditya L1: India followed its lunar success with the successful launch of its solar science mission Aditya-L1 on September 2, 2023. The launch was the easiest part of the mission, onboard ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). The spacecraft executed a series of manoeuvres to move into an orbit around the first earth-Sun Lagrange point (L1) on January 6, 2024. It completed its first orbit around L1 on July 2, 2024. It studied a solar storm in May 2024 together with observatories on the ground and spacecraft in lunar orbit.

Gaganyaan TV-D1: ISRO used a modified L-40 Vikas engine to build its Test Vehicle (TV) that it used to perform the first abort mission on October 21, 2023, as part of its 'Gaganyaan' human spaceflight mission. The mission demonstrated the ability of the Crew Escape System (CES) to separate from the TV, take the crew module to safety, and the crew module's ability to decelerate before splashing down in the Bay of Bengal. The crew module at the test's end was recovered by the Indian Navy vessel *INS Shakthi*.

XPoSat: ISRO celebrated the new year with the launch of its X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) on January 1, 2024. The satellite will study how radiation from various celestial objects is polarised. It is the second such space-based observatory after NASA's Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IPEX), launched in 2021. The two instruments on board XPoSat, called XSPECT and POLIX, began operating on January 5 and 10.

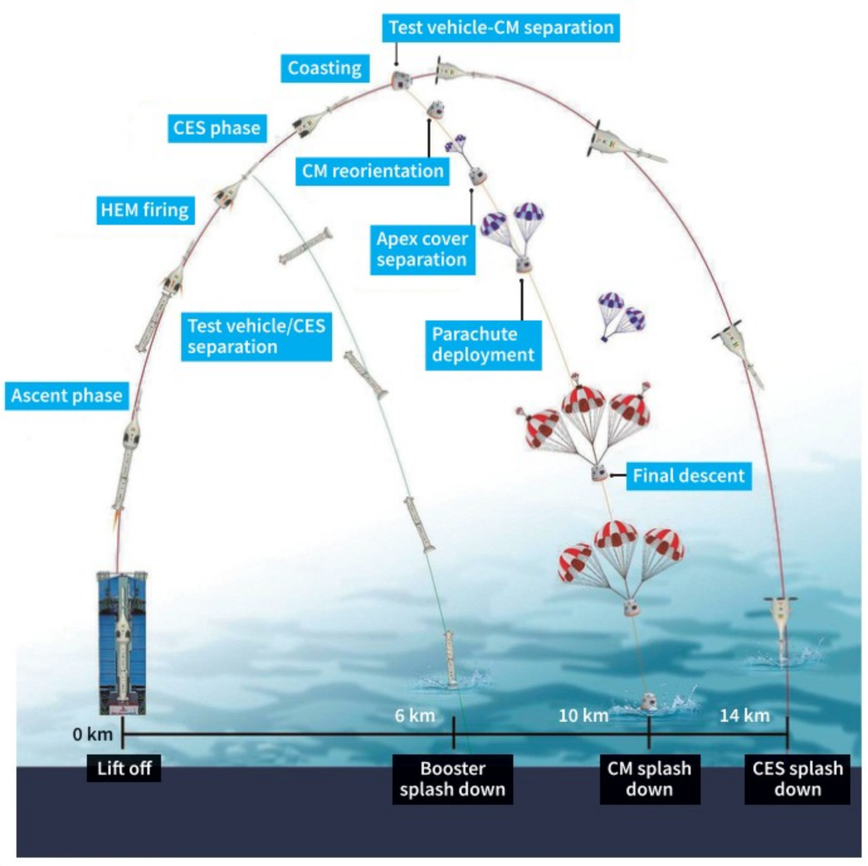
INSAT-3DS: ISRO launched the meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS on February 17 onboard a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV). This mission was important to prove the vehicle's credibility before the critical NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission, now expected to launch in early 2025. This version of the GSLV had previously successfully launched the NVS-01 satellite in 2023.

RLV-TD: ISRO used a downscale version of the Reusable Launch Vehicle, called Pushpak, to conduct two landing experiments – LEX-02 and LEX-03 – on March 22 and June 7 at its Aeronautical Testing Range in Challakere, Karnataka. The tests simulated landing conditions from space by dropping the Pushpak vehicle from a Chinook helicopter, in LEX-02 along its landing path and in LEX-03 500 metres to one side. Successes in these tests gave ISRO the confidence to move on to the 'Orbital Return Flight Experiment'.

SSLV: On August 16, ISRO launched the third and final development flight of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), placing the EOS-08 and the SR-0 Demosat satellites in orbit. With two consecutively successful test flights, ISRO declared the SSLV's development complete and green-lit its transfer to industry. EOS-08 carried three payloads: one for earth observation in the infrared range, one to demonstrate the use of reflections from a global satellite navigation system for earth observation, and one ultraviolet dosimeter and alarm to be tested ahead of their use in the Gaganyaan crew module.

Maiden test flight of Gaganyaan mission

The first uncrewed Gaganyaan flight is expected in late 2024



SOURCE: ISRO

ISRO roadmaps

After handing over operational responsibilities to NewSpace India, Ltd. (NSIL), ISRO has prioritised research. In December 2023, ISRO Chairman S. Somanath announced a 25-year roadmap until 2047 for Gaganyaan. It intersects with the lunar exploration roadmap in the form of an Indian landing on the moon by 2040. Mr. Somanath also shared a lunar exploration roadmap that includes – apart from a crewed lunar mission – a sample-return mission, a long-duration mission on the moon's surface, docking with NASA's Lunar Gateway (under the Artemis programme), and building moon habitats.

Gaganyaan

One of ISRO's primary focus areas of late has been to train its astronaut-candidates, or Gaganyatris, for spaceflight.

Prime Minister Modi revealed the candidate's names on February 27: Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla and Group Captains Prashanth Nair, Ajit Krishnan, and Angad Pratap.

Earlier this month, Mr. Shukla and Mr. Nair travelled to the U.S. for advanced training ahead of a flight to the International Space Station (ISS). Mr. Shukla is likely to fly in this mission, with Mr. Nair as his designated backup. The mission will be conducted by Axiom Space, a private company, with inputs from NASA and using SpaceX's launch vehicle and crew capsule. The flight is scheduled for 2025.

ISRO has also planned at least four more abort tests using its Test Vehicle before the historic crewed flight. The first uncrewed Gaganyaan flight is expected in late 2024.

Mr. Somanath's roadmap also includes plans to build an Indian space station called the 'Bharatiya Antariksh Station' (BAS) by 2035.

Next-generation Launch Vehicle

Since India is aspiring to both the BAS and a full-fledged lunar programme, it requires a new launch vehicle that can deliver heavier payloads per launch than its PSLV or GSLV rockets. This is set to be the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV).

ISRO set up a team led by S. Sivakumar that submitted a project report to the Union Cabinet in February with a request for funding and details of the NGLV, including manufacturing requirements.

ISRO has planned for NGLV to be a three-stage launch vehicle powered by a semi-cryogenic engine, a liquid engine, and a cryogenic engine. ISRO doesn't plan to continue the use of the GSLV once the NGLV is ready. The PSLV is already under production by a private consortium led by Larsen & Toubro and Hindustan Aeronautics, Ltd.

This said, ISRO is developing a semi-cryogenic engine for the LVM-3 rocket – another name for the GSLV Mk III – to enhance its launch capability. On May 2 and 21, it successfully tested the engine's pre-burner ignition test article.

NSIL missions

ISRO is focusing on research because NSIL has been tasked with conducting missions and chaperoning commercial activities. On May 1, ISRO transferred all commercial activities related to Indian Remote Sensing satellite data and products to NSIL.

NSIL signed an agreement with SpaceX to launch the GSAT-20/GSAT-N2 satellite. LVM-3 currently can't launch this 4,700-tonne machine. SpaceX is expected to launch it in August 2024.

On May 10, NSIL released a request for qualification for the production of LVM-3 through a public-private partnership and signed a dedicated launch service agreement with an Australian private space company to launch the SSLV.

Private space missions

Agnikul Cosmos successfully launched its SoRTeD-01 vehicle from its launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota on March 21. This was the first launch of a vehicle powered by a semi-cryogenic engine as its first stage from Indian soil.

Skyroot Aerospace is progressing towards the launch of its Vikram 1 rocket. It had previously pressure-tested solid-fuel engines between May and July 2024 and launched a test vehicle called Vikram S from Sriharikota on November 18, 2022.

Dhruva Space and Bellatrix Aerospace flew their experiments on the fourth and final stage of the PSLV-C58 mission on January 1.

IN-SPACe

In the last year, there have been several notable policy updates and licences issued by India's new space regulator, IN-SPACe. Most importantly, it released the 'Norms, Guidelines, and Procedures for Authorisation of Space Activities' on May 3.

It also granted the country's first satellite broadband licence to Eutelsat OneWeb on November 21, 2023, and the first licence for a ground station as a service to Dhruva Space on July 15.

Finally, on February 21, the Government of India amended its foreign direct investment (FDI) policy to allow 100% direct FDI in all space and spaceflight segments except for a 74% ceiling in satellite manufacturing and operations and 49% in launch infrastructure.

Pradeep Mohandas is a technical writer and space enthusiast in Pune

THE GIST

- ISRO made major progress with missions like Aditya L1 for solar research, Gaganyaan TV-D1 testing crew safety, and XPoSat for X-ray studies.
- Successful launches and tests include the SSLV's final development flight, the INSAT-3DS meteorological satellite, and the RLV-TD landing experiments.
- ISRO is focused on its 25-year roadmap for Gaganyaan, a new Next Generation Launch Vehicle, and the Bharatiya Antariksh Station by 2035.
- NSIL manages commercial missions, and private companies like Agnikul Cosmos and Skyroot Aerospace are advancing their own space technologies.
- New policies and licenses are boosting private sector participation and foreign investment in India's space sector.

State Cabinet approves construction of tunnel road, skydeck, and Indira canteens

Cost for construction of the 18.5-km twin-tube tunnel road between Hebbal flyover and Silk Board junction flyover is ₹12,690 crore; to be implemented on build, operate and transfer mode

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet has given in-principal administrative approval for construction of one tunnel road, skydeck, and establishing 52 new Indira canteens in Bengaluru.

The Cabinet has given green signal for construction of the 18.5 km twin-tube tunnel road between Hebbal flyover (Esteem Mall) and Silk Board Junction flyover. The estimated project cost is ₹12,690 crore. The Cabinet gave approval for the twin-tube tunnel as this has been done in Mumbai and according to Indian Road Congress norms. The feasibility study conducted by the Altinac Consulting Engineering Inc. also suggested construction of a single-tube tunnel for which estimated cost is slightly lesser than the twin model.

An artist's impression of the proposed skydeck in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

The project will be implemented on build, operate and transfer (BOT) mode. In the meeting, it was opined that the tunnel can be constructed as a toll road in a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model by 40% Viability Gap Funding (VAF) by the State government. If no company comes forward for the construction on BOT mode even after two tenders, the work can be implemented by Engineering Procurement Contract (EPC) basis by collecting the toll revenue by the government on Hybrid Annuity Model basis, the Cabinet said.

The State Cabinet also gave the nod for building a 250 m-high skydeck near NICE road at Hemmigepura. The estimated cost of the project is ₹500 crore. An amount of ₹25 crore has been earmarked under the Brand Bengaluru scheme in the latest BBMP budget. BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has proposed sharing of 50% by State government and 50% by BBMP, sources said.

The Letter of Acceptance was given to Designtree Services Consultants Pvt. Ltd. as they were the only technically qualified bidder in the global tender for preparation of Detailed Project Report.

The Cabinet gave approval for construction of 52 Indira Canteens at the cost of ₹220 crore. While the State will bear 50% of the expenses, the BBMP will bear the other 50%. At present, there are 175 Indira Canteens in Bengaluru.

21-year-old biker killed in road rage incident at Vidyaranyapura

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two people who were in a car have been booked for murder

A joy ride turned fatal for a 21-year-old who was killed on the spot after two persons in a car chased his two-wheeler and rammed into his bike over a road rage incident at Saptagiri Layout in Vidyaranyapura on Wednesday night.

The deceased has been identified as Mahesh, who worked as a delivery executive for a private firm and was a resident of Chamundeshwari Layout.

According to the police, at around 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Mahesh was riding triples on a white Bajaj Pulsar with his friends Nikhil and Balaji.

The accused, identified as Arvind and Chennakeshava, were also heading in the same direction.

According to the police, Arvind honked at Mahesh to clear the way. Since Mahesh continued to ride as is, Arvind slightly brushed against the motorcycle. Mahesh began to speed, which reportedly infuriated Arvind and he chased him.

After a few yards of chase, the bike slowed down and Nikhil and Balaji jumped off. Mahesh continued to ride, even as Arvind chased him.

Mahesh reached the dead end of a residential lane and slowed down his motorcycle, but was crushed against the wall of a house. He sustained head injuries and was killed on the spot. The car also hit a pole near the compound wall of the house. The police have arrested Arvind, an employee of a private bank in Bengaluru, and Chennakeshava, a civil engineer with a real estate firm. The two have been booked for murder.

From Page One

Cabinet seeks Gehlot's 'quick decision' on four senior NDA leaders

On how many cases are pending for approval before the Governor, Mr. Patil said he was unaware of the exact number.

The Cabinet said, "The objective is to ensure timely decisions on these pending matters, facilitating the process of justice. Given the significance of these cases and the necessity for timely action, it is imperative that the Cabinet fulfil this role."

Meanwhile, the Council of Ministers that met under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar before the Cabinet meeting after Mr. Siddaramaiah recused from the meeting confirmed the 90-page letter that has been sent by the government in response to the show-cause notice issued by the Governor earlier.

Meanwhile, responding to the Special Investigation Team's inquiry into mining matters, Mr. Kumaraswamy said, "You have lied that I have approved 550 acres to Sai Venkateshwara Minerals. My handwriting has been forged. I will not run away from the issue."

Water tariff hike in city inevitable: Shivakumar

"Water is a basic necessity, not a luxury! Yet, our Dy. CM and Bengaluru City Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar is planning to turn it into a costly commodity with his proposed hike in water tariff. This potential financial burden on the common man is a result of the Congress' ongoing fiscal mismanagement," said BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra on social media.

No privatisation of water supply

Mr. Shivakumar assured that the government would never agree to any proposal of privatising the water supply in the city and said that BWSSB would always remain a public utility. "There have been numerous proposals for privatisation, including offers from companies like Adani, but I have rejected them," he said. He recalled that similar proposals were made during the stints of J.H. Patel and S.M. Krishna. "We rejected the privatisation proposal back then, and we will continue to do so," he affirmed.

Cauvery Stage V to be commissioned over next few days

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The trial run of the Cauvery Stage V project is almost complete and it will be commissioned over the next few days. "The works of Cauvery Stage V is completed and in the trial run, water has now come till Tataguni, on the outskirts of the city. We will launch Stage V next week," said V. Ram Prasath Manohar, Chairman, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

Cauvery V Stage draws 770 MLD, around 10 tmcft of water from Cauvery annually, for supply of piped water to 110 villages added to the city in 2007. Work on the project began in 2018. The project, which was taken up with a ₹5,500 crore loan from Japan International Cooperative Agency (JICA), missed several deadlines and work is complete now.

Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar flagged off the Cauvery water connection campaign in front of the Vidhana Soudha on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

In the light of this, BWSSB launched a campaign on Thursday asking individual households in 110 villages, which will get piped water supply from Cauvery river, to avail connections. "We estimate that there will be three lakh individual connections under Cauvery Stage V. Of that, 55,000 households have already taken connections. The trial run has shown these connections are secure. We now appeal to the rest to avail connections," Mr. Manohar said.

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar flagged off the campaign in front of the Vidhana Soudha, along with several other initiatives, on Thursday.

UN innovations project

Mr. Shivakumar also launched the United Nations Innovations Project for Water Security in Bengaluru city, a project taken up in collaboration with the UN and BWSSB.

"This comprehensive project focuses on water management, the installation of rainwater harvesting systems, filling lakes with treated water, and promoting the use of eco-friendly, treated water through advanced technologies. The project also aims to maintain groundwater levels using modern techniques and explore new revenue streams," Mr. Shivakumar said.

Varuna Mitras

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board also launched Varuna Mitra campaign under which 1,000 unemployed youth will be trained as Varuna Mitras (friends of rainwater) to scientifically install rainwater harvesting systems. This will also provide them with a livelihood opportunity, the BWSSB said.

Rainwater harvesting

Launching the initiative, Mr. Shivakumar pointed out that a building with an area of just 1,200 square feet can collect around one lakh litres of water annually, which could meet a family's needs for about seven months. With most of the city relying on groundwater, proper rainwater harvesting could help prevent water shortages during the dry season. Mr. Shivakumar urged citizens to adopt rainwater harvesting systems widely.

Captive power generation for Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar, noting that the power bill of BWSSB was itself a big part of its expenditure, mooted the idea of a captive power generation facility for all utilities of Bengaluru. "We can harness power through renewable sources like solar power. If all utilities of Bengaluru come together, we can do this," he said.

Appointed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Pramod Kumar Agrawal, a 1988 batch IRS officer, was appointed as the Principal Chief Commissioner of Bengaluru CGST zone on August 20.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, AUG. 23		
RISE	06:08	SET 18:36
RISE	21:31	SET 09:23
SATURDAY, AUG. 24		
RISE	06:08	SET 18:35
RISE	22:16	SET 10:20
SUNDAY, AUG. 25		
RISE	06:08	SET 18:35
RISE	23:05	SET 11:20

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	23
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	28	20

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower mayl occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C Day will be slight warm with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

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THE HINDU
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IIA finds new way to probe deeper into sun's secrets

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Astronomers at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have found a new way to probe deeper into the sun's secrets by studying the magnetic field at different layers of the solar atmosphere.

The astronomers have done this using data from IIA's Kodaikanal Tower Tunnel Telescope.

According to the Department of Science and Technology, the solar atmosphere is composed of various layers interconnected through magnetic fields.

The magnetic field acts as a conduit to transfer energy and mass from the inner layers to the outer layers, commonly known as the coronal heating problem and is also the prime driver of solar wind.

To understand the physical mechanisms behind these processes, measurements of magnetic fields at different heights of the solar atmosphere are important.

IIA astronomers have examined an active region (sunspot) with complex features, including multiple umbrae and a penumbra, through simultaneous observations in the Hydrogen-alpha and Calcium II 8662 Å lines from the Kodaikanal Tower Tunnel telescope.

The solar atmosphere is composed of various layers interconnected through magnetic fields. FILE PHOTO

The study used data from multiple spectral lines acquired simultaneously, especially the Hydrogen-alpha line, at 6562.8 Angstroms (Å), to infer the magnetic field's stratification at various heights of the solar atmosphere, taken from the Tunnel Telescope at the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory, which IIA operates.

The primary mirror (M1) of the 3-mirror setup at the Tunnel Telescope tracks the sun, the secondary mirror (M2) redirects sunlight downwards, and the tertiary mirror (M3) makes the beam horizontal. This kind of setup, where the primary mirror is rotated to track a moving object in the sky, in this case, the sun, is called a coelostat. An achromatic doublet (38 cm aperture, f/96) focuses the sun's image at a distance of 36 m with an image scale of 5.5 arcsec per mm.

The chromospheric magnetic field in the spectral lines is typically inferred using the Calcium II 8542 Å and Helium I 10830 Å line.

However, these diagnostic probes have certain limitations which limit their applicability across diverse solar features.

'Walk with agriculture' to be held on Sunday

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore (UAS-B), Directorate of Research, Zonal Agricultural Research Station and Agricultural Technology and Information Centre (AITC), are jointly organising 'Walk with agriculture' on Sunday, starting at 6.30 a.m. from the AITC, GKVK campus.

According to release, the event will feature activities such as ploughing, sowing, and winnowing. There is a registration fee of ₹300, which includes breakfast. For details, call 080-23330153/0315 during office hours.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, FEMINA Freeda Abednega, R/@ No. 33, 1st Floor, Jonaths Haven, Opp. Gangamma Devi Temple Road, Chelekere, Babusabpalya, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560043 India, have changed my name from Femina Freeda Abednega to Femina Freed Abednego, vide affidavit dated: 27/05/2024, sworn to before Notary Public, K. H. Jagadish, Bangalore.

I, DRISHA Madanlal Jain, W/o Akshat Jain, R/at No.10, Kamal Nivas, Srikantiah Layout, Crescent Cross Road, Bengaluru-560001, have changed my name from Drisha Madanlal Jain to Drisha Jain vide affidavit dated 22-08-2024 before Udaya Kumar.K, Bengaluru.

I, KARAN, S/o BABU R/o Kidiyoor Udupi that I have changed my name to KARNA for all future purposes

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ASGHAR Pasha Abdul Azeez S/o Abdul Azeez residing at No. 162, Green City, Jayram Layout, Near CS International School, Bilwaradahalli Gottigere Bengaluru-560083 have changed my name to Asghar Pasha vide affidavit dated 22/08/2024 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

I, PALANI.P, R/at No.6, C Main Road, 4th Cross, Muneshwara Block, Palace Guttahalli, Bengaluru-560003 have changed my name to P.Palani, vide Affidavit dated 19.08.2024 sworn before Notary S.R.Paramashivaiah, Bengaluru.

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REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY IN THE NAME OF DECEASED PERSON

AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN SURVEY NO.33/1, 33/3, 33/5, 34/2 AND 34/2, SITUATED AT KENCHENALLY, BHUVANESWARI WARD, YELAHANKA, BANGALORE

REPLY TO PUBLIC NOTICE DT.25.7.24 ISSUED HERE ON BEHALF OF MR.SALEEM AND HIS ASSOCIATES INCLUDING M/S SAINIK VIHAR SITE AND HOUSE OWNERS WELFARE ASSOCIATION BY THEIR ADVOCATE

GENERAL PUBLIC ARE HEREBY INFORMED THAT THE AFORESAID AGRICULTURAL LANDS ARE NOW BEING OWNED BY MR. G. VENKATARAMANA AND UMAVENKAT (SY. NO. 33/5, 34/2 AND 34/3) & MR. AZMATH ULLAH KHAN (SY.NO.33/1, 33/3) AND WE HAVE LEGAL, MARKETABLE AND CLEAR TITLE AND POSSESSION.

FOLLOWING IS THE DETAILS OF SALE DEED TRANSACTION MADE BY ERSWHILE OWNERS OF LAND IN ABOVE SURVEY NUMBERS.

1) **MR. S.K. MARIAPPA** has sold lands in survey number 33/1 measuring 2 acres 10 guntas to Mr. Sham Sunder Bathija and **sale deed dt. 20.01.1996** registered as Document No.6992, Vol. No.1, book No.856, Pages 56-61 before the Sub-Registrar, Yelahanka, Bengaluru North Taluk.
2) **MR. S.K. MARIYAPPA** has sold lands in survey no.33/3 measuring an extent of 2 Acres to Mr. Shamsunder R. Bathija, under the **Sale Deed dt. 20.01.1996**, document registered as No. 6991/1995-96, in Book-1, Volume No. 856, at Page Nos. 50 to 55, on 24.03.1997 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Yelahanka.
3) **MR. S.K. MARIYAPPA** has sold lands in survey no.33/5 measuring an extent of 1 Acres 33 guntas to Mr. Shamsunder R. Bathija, under the **Sale Deed dt. 20.01.1996**, document registered as No. 6990/1995-96, in Book-1, Volume No. 856, at Page Nos. 44 to 49, on 24.03.1997 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Yelahanka.
4) **MR. A. ABDUL RAFFEEKH** represented by his Power of Attorney Holder, Mr. Suraj B. Chhabria, (duly appointed under the Power of Attorney dated 24.01.1997, registered on 25.01.1997, as Document No. 695/96-97, in Book IV, Volume No. 370, at Page Nos. 120 to 123, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru), had sold and conveyed the land measuring an extent of 2 Acres comprised in the Survey No. 34 (which he had purchased from Mr. T.S. Narayana Rao) to and in favour of Mrs. Anju Ahuja, under the **Sale Deed dated 14.07.1997**, registered as Document No. 3424/1997-98, in Book-I, stored in C.D. No. 4, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Yelahanka, Bengaluru. Subsequently, Mr. A. Abdul Raffeekh, chairman, Amanath Co-Op Bank, has executed confirmation deed as per law.
5) **MR. A. ABDUL RAFFEEKH** represented by his Power of Attorney Holder, Mr. Suraj B. Chhabria, had sold and conveyed the land measuring an extent of 1 Acre 32 comprised in the Survey No. 34 (being a portion which he had purchased from Mr. T.S. Krishnoji Rao) to and in favour of Mrs. Anju Ahuja, under the **Sale Deed dated 14.07.1997**, registered as Document No. 3425/1997-98, in Book-I, stored in C.D. No. 4, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Yelahanka, Bengaluru. Subsequently, Mr. A. Abdul Raffeekh, chairman, Amanath Co-Op Bank, has executed confirmation deed as per law.
6) **MR. A. ABDUL RAFFEEKH** represented by his Power of Attorney Holder, Mr. Suraj B. Chhabria, had sold and conveyed the remaining land measuring an extent of 8 guntas in the Survey No. 34 (being a portion which he had purchased from Mr. T.S. Krishnoji Rao), to and in favour of Mrs. Nirmala devi Motilal. Under the **Sale Deed dated 22.05.98**, registered as Document No. 769/98-99, in Book-I, stored in C.D. No.11, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Yelahanka, Bengaluru. Subsequently, Mr. A. Abdul Raffeekh, chairman, Amanath Co-Op Bank, has executed confirmation deed as per law.

General public are hereby informed that Late. Mariappa or Mr. Abdul Raffeekh have not made residential layout in lands situated in above survey numbers since they have sold it in 1997-98 itself as agricultural lands.

Mr. Saleem alias Mohammed Saleem, Mr. Khaleel, Mr. Syed Maroof, Mr. Saleem Pasha, Mr. Mehaboob, etc., are claiming rights over aforesaid agricultural lands based on **GPA said to be signed by Mr. Mariappa (dt. 20.06.98, 15.11.2003, 26.1.2006, etc.,) and Mr. Abdul Raffeekh (dt. 20.6.98 & 12.1.2002, etc.,).Whereas both were not the land owners on such GPA dates and they have sold their agricultural lands much before dates of such GPA's, as detailed above.** These so called GPA holders are using all tactics to conceal above mentioned sale deeds executed by Mr. Mariappa and Mr. Abdul Raffeekh. In sy No.33/1, 33/3, 33/5 sites VOID transactions have taken place after Jan 2006 whereas GPA (?) **executant Mariappa has died on 19.3.2004 itself and M/S SAINIK VIHAR SITE AND HOUSE OWNERS WELFARE ASSOCIATION** is sheltering such VOID transactions.

HONOURABLE CIVIL COURT AND HIGH COURT'S HAVE DISMISSED PETITIONS FILED AGAINST US BY SEVERAL SITE PURCHASERS UNDER VOID SALE DEED, MAINLY ON FOLLOWING FACTS / EVIDENCES:-

1. Petitioners have purchased sites from GPA holders whereas on such dates of notarized GPA, executants both Mariappa and Abdul Raffekh were not the land owners of aforesaid survey numbers since they have sold their lands to others under registered sale deed as detailed above and as such both GPA executants or their attorneys (GPA holders) do not have any title over the lands in aforesaid survey numbers. It is proved that these GPA's are VOID in law and they have not passed any title to the site buyers.
2. Registration of Sites based on notarized GPA are bad in law and the sale deeds in survey No.33 were registered after the death of Mariappa (19.03.2004). As such, said notarized GPAs are NULL and VOID.
3. There is No title to the schedule site property in sale deeds since there is no approved layout plan or conversion orders from DC for change of land use and land owners have not executed such sale deeds or formed layouts. There is no document to show that these sites are carved out of lands in aforesaid survey numbers.
4. Thasildhar, Yelahanka, Bangalore as per the directive of ADLR and high court orders and in reply to petitions of land owners has ordered for demolition of unauthorized layout formed in above survey numbers.
5. Hon'ble High court has dismissed petitions of M/S SAINIK VIHAR SITE AND HOUSE OWNERS WELFARE ASSOCIATION stating that they have NO LOCUS STANDI to the above lands and they are nowhere connected to the lands in above survey numbers. We are contemplating to file criminal proceedings against this unlawful association.

SO, PUBLIC ARE HEREBY CAUTIONED NOT TO DEAL WITH Mr. Saleem alias Mohammed Saleem, Mr. Khaleel, Mr. Syed Maroof, Mr. Saleem Pasha, Mr. Mehaboob, or any GPA holders of Mr. Abdul Raffeekh and deceased Mariappa or **M/S SAINIK VIHAR SITE AND HOUSE OWNERS WELFARE ASSOCIATION** with regard to LANDS IN SURVEY No.33/1, 33/3, 33/5, 34/2, 34/2, Bhuvaneswari ward, Kenchenally, Yelahanka, Bangalore.

These so called GPA holders and association of VOID sale deed holders are spoiling the image of deceased Mariappa and respected Mr. Abdul Raffeekh, by using their names in created GPA's and to trap innocent people.

Separate and direct Legal reply has been sent to advocate representing Mr. Saleem and others for misleading general public.

PUBLISHED BY LAND OWNERS IN THE INTEREST OF JUSTICE

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IN THE LIMELIGHT

Veiled power: Parvathy and Urvashi in a still from *Ullozhukku*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Slaying of the Sarkata: changing portrayal of the female protagonist in 2024

With *Laapataa Ladies*, *Ullozhukku*, and *Stree 2*, women are renegotiating the terms of engagement with society; they expose the deep-seated patriarchy in society and imbue the female protagonist with the agency to dismantle atavistic social mores by instilling them with power to control their destiny

Anuj Kumar

It has been an agonising August for Indian women. A medical student has been brutally silenced in Kolkata leading to an outcry, *beti padhi par bachi nahin* (the daughter studied but could not survive). A champion wrestler has been casually fat-shamed by a woman MP from the film industry for missing her weight category by 100 grams.

Mercifully, on the screen, the month has been rewarding for women who stood up against injustice. That women are renegotiating their terms of engagement with society came to the fore when *Aattam* (The Play) made it to the podium at the National Awards. The gripping Malayalam drama by debutant Anand Ekarshi showcases how even the seemingly safest and friendliest of spaces can turn hostile for women if they speak about the violation of their bodies. Set in an ostensibly progressive space of theatre and cinema, the film takes the mask off men who practise gender sensitivity according to their interests.

The announcement came just days before the Kerala government finally released the Justice Hema Committee report, four-and-a-half-years after it was submitted. Exposing the darkness beneath the glitter in the Malayalam film industry, the report reveals rampant harassment and discrimination faced by women in Mollywood at the hands of a powerful lobby of male producers, directors, and actors. Though the Kerala government has taken an inordinately long time to make the report public, one must appreciate that this is the first time a government in India formed a panel to study the issues faced by women in the film industry. The cases and concerns raised in the report resonate across India. Over the years, Bollywood actors have spoken about their experiences of gender discrimination and the scourge of the casting couch, but the complaints are hushed under the carpet.

Complex bonds

Interestingly, the report came under public scrutiny when Christo Tomy's *Ullozhukku* (Undercurrent) was making waves on a streaming platform and at the State Awards. Set in an inundated village where the flood water becomes a metaphor for the emotional swell, the tender tale about love and companionship buries conventions of morality and guilt that men create for women along with a dead body. Led by two powerhouse performers in Urvashi and Parvathy, *Ullozhukku* is a rare exploration of the relationships between women in mainstream space. Tomy navigates the complex ties between a mother-in-law and her daughter-in-law after the connecting link in their lives is lost to cancer. With remarkable sensitivity, while probing who controls a woman's body before and after marriage. The film also brings to light that the Christian community in Kerala is not insulated from notions of sectarianism and patriarchy.

Taking the conversation of bonds between women on screen forward, Kiran Rao's *Laapataa Ladies* was recently screened for Supreme Court judges. Like *Ullozhukku*, this film also deals with homespun rules cast in stone for women, albeit with a light touch.

Peeling off the layers of an unjust society, Kiran addresses the invisibilisation of women by lifting the veil on entrenched patriarchy. When a resolute Jaya finds an opening in the iron curtain, she escapes like a sheaf of grass from a crevice in the rock of tradition. In a parallel space, there is this naive Phool who is married to a patriarchal structure in the name of culture. When left behind on a railway platform, she hides behind a huge dustbin that has 'use me' written in bold letters.

Challenging conventions

The dustbin finds life in Nithilan Swaminathan's *Maharaja*, where a father uses it as a metaphor in a police station to describe his missing daughter. It turns out to be a potent narrative device to find the monsters who ravaged his only hope. Though the genres and treatment are markedly different, both *Lapaata Ladies* and *Maharaja* indicate going to the police station is worse than being robbed. In both films, the protagonist has to grease the palms of the police officer to set the system in motion.

There can be divergent points of view on the depiction of violence in the film, but the fact that the girl makes it a point to tell the depraved that she cannot be psychologically scarred or stalled in pursuit of her ambitions leaves a strong impression.

The same emotion comes through in Nikkhil Advani's *Vedaa*, where a Dalit girl refuses to be stopped in her tracks by the self-appointed custodians of caste and morality.

Though both films feature male saviours, the guts of the girls don't feel cosmetic.

In contrast to the monsters dressed in human skin, Amar Kaushik's sharp satire *Stree 2* deals with demons who rise from the dead to institutionalise patriarchy by feeding on women who dare to be 'progressive' in terms of their choice of education, love, and haircuts.

When Pankaj Tripathi, in his chaste Hindi, explains that the length of a braid doesn't matter because even *parkati* (short-haired) women can stop the Sarkata (headless) male chauvinist in his tracks, one's mind goes back to a late socialist leader's jibe at *parkati mahilayen* in the context of the Women's Reservation Bill. That was in 1997.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

With the Democratic and Republican tickets to the U.S. presidential elections firmed up, here is a related quiz on U.S. vice presidential candidates

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

Only two other politicians (since World War II) were elected as Vice Presidents of the U.S. and were from the state of Minnesota before Tim Walz was added to the Kamala Harris ticket recently. Name them.

QUESTION 2

Directed by Ron Howard, this 2020 drama film featuring Amy Adams and Glenn Close was based on the memoir written by the current vice presidential candidate of the Republican party. Name the candidate and the memoir.

QUESTION 3

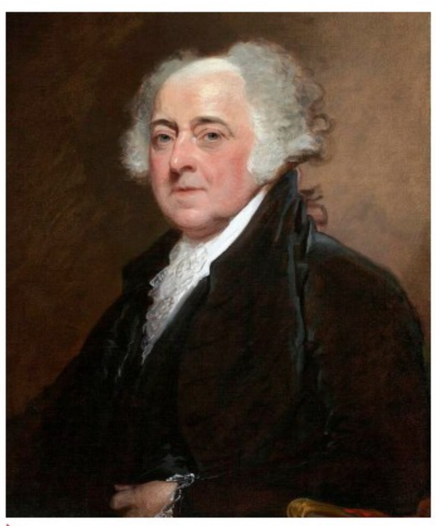
The father of the current Vice President of the U.S., this person was an academic (economist) who also earned the distinction of being the first Black scholar to be granted tenure by the Stanford Department of Economics. Name him and also the country of his origin.

QUESTION 4

Only seven Vice Presidents served the full two terms in their posts in the U.S. One of them went on to win the Nobel Peace Prize (jointly with another recipient). Name him.

QUESTION 5

Who holds the distinction of being the first vice presidential nominee from one of the two major parties in the U.S.?



Visual Question:
Identify this gentleman.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The Sri Kanyaka Parameswari Arts and Science College for Women replaced this iconic location. Name the place. **Ans: Kothawal Chawadi Market**
2. The State Government has announced that it will be launching an Independence Day Museum. Where is it going to be housed? **Ans: Humayum Mahal, Chepauk Palace**
3. What did Krishna Rao, a native of Udupi who started as a dishwasher and then climbed up to become a restaurateur, start up at Royapettah on land that he leased from the Sethupathi Raja of Ramnad? **Ans: Woodlands Hotel**
4. How do we now know "The Pudupet Maidan" where in 1954, the then Inspector-General of Police, V.R. Rajarathinam, decided to move the annual police sports meet? **Ans: Rajarathinam Stadium**
5. By what names are the twin hamlets that are in between Mylapore and Long Tank now known? **Ans: Alwarpet & Teynampet**
Visual: Name this short stretch of road, arguably the most beautiful architectural stretch of "Madras" that goes south from NSC Bose Road and ends at the intersection of Sir T. Muthuswami Aiyar and North Fort Roads. **Ans: Esplanade**
Early Birds: K.N.Viswanathan | Bharath Viswanathan | Siddhartha Viswanathan | Shraddha Padad

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"What are you reading?
"Newspaper, don't you see?"
"Read me the headlines, please."
"Crisis in local school reaches flashpoint."
"Oh dear. Things are getting out of hand, aren't they?"
"Are they? I don't know what 'flashpoint' means."
"You don't eh? What happens when two people don't agree about something?"
"They usually have an argument"
"Then?"
"Then one thing leads to another. They become angry, shout at each other and pretty soon, they come to blows."
"Very good. You've just told me what a flashpoint is."
"I have?"
"Yes. You see a flashpoint is that point during a conflict when violence breaks out."
"Does it always end in violence?"
"Not necessarily. The person can just explode in anger."
"Anyway, coming back to the flashpoint can I say the crisis in Ayodya reached the flashpoint on December 6?"
"Certainly."
"Good. I think I have understood the meaning of flashpoint now. I appreciate your help.
"What do you mean by 'appreciate' in that sentence?"
"Grateful. I am grateful for your help."
"Yes. One of the meanings of appreciate is thankful' or 'grateful.' Did you enjoy Azhar's batting during the first test?"
"But can I say, everyone appreciated his superb batting?"
"Of course, you can. 'Appreciate' in that sentence means 'to recognise and enjoy the qualities of. The crowd appreciated the fight put up by the English tail-enders."
"But they certainly wouldn't have appreciated our close-in fielding."
"No, they wouldn't have. But you must appreciate the pressure the fielders were under."
"Appreciate the pressure? You mean enjoy the pressure?"
"No, No. Appreciate in that sentence means to understand with sympathy."
"To understand with sympathy', eh?"
"I appreciate the pressure that Azhar was in when he went in to bat."
"By the way, I hear that the house you built last year has appreciated in value."
"Appreciate?"
"Appreciate here means 'increase in value'. I will tell you a small story to illustrate the meaning of 'appreciate'. Long long ago, there was a king. He was full of himself but he never appreciated the good work done by his ministers. He never seemed to appreciate how hard-working and sincere they were. The queen appreciated the difficult circumstances in which the ministers worked and but could not do anything to change the attitude of the king to his ministers. When he became old, the king felt sorry that he took them for granted. Ha prayed to God for forgiveness and hoped that after his death, he would go to Eden Gardens."
"Eden Gardens?"
"I am getting old. I hope you appreciate that. What I meant was the Garden of Eden."
"You mean 'Paradise'."
"Yes."
"Thanks. I'd appreciate if you'd let me go now as I have to meet a friend at 10 'o'clock."
"I appreciate your punctuality."

Word of the day

Propensity:
an inclination to do something

Synonyms: tendency, leaning, partiality

Usage: *She has a propensity to exaggerate.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/propensitypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: //prə'pɛnsɪti/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

SIT files one more chargesheet in Valmiki corporation scam case

It does not include the names of former Minister B. Nagendra and bank officials mentioned in the death note left by the accounts superintendent

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

B. Nagendra

The Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the multi-crore scam in Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation, on Thursday filed a chargesheet in connection with the suicide of Chandrasekharan P., accounts superintendent at the corporation.

The 300-page chargesheet, filed before the 2nd Additional District and Sessions court in Shivamogga, named ex-managing director of the corporation J.G. Padmanabha and former accounts officer Parashuram G. Duragannavar, charging them under section 306 (abetment of suicide) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and 3(2)(v) (punishments for offences atrocities) of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The chargesheet did not include the names of former Social Welfare Minister B. Nagendra and the bank officials who have been mentioned in the death note left behind by Chandrasekharan. The note left behind by Chandrasekaran had named Union Bank of India (UBI) Chief Manager Suchismita Rawal, apart from Padmanabha and Parashurama. The note also mentioned the minister as having given "oral instruction", as told to him by his superiors.

A separate FIR was registered naming six UBI officials, including Suchismita, for the unauthorised transfer of ₹94.73 crore, of which ₹5 crore was transferred back to the corporation's account.

The SIT investigations revealed that from the UBI's MG Road branch, ₹89.62 crore was transferred to 18 bank accounts belonging to First Finance Credit Co-Operative Society Limited in Hyderabad, whose chairman Sathyanarayana Etakari was also arrested.

Chandrasekharan was found dead at his house in Shivamogga on May 26 leaving behind a death note mentioning misappropriation of funds.

The SIT, which is investigating eight cases in connection with the scam, had filed another chargesheet earlier this month naming 12 people. The SIT also made seizures of ₹49.96 crore including cash and gold and high end car purchased by the accused.

Interestingly, both the chargesheets made no mention of Mr. Nagendra, arrested by ED, and Basanagouda Daddal, corporation chairperson.

DA case: Lokayukta police question DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

D.K. Shivakumar

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar appeared before the Lokayukta Police for questioning in the disproportionate assets case against him, on Thursday.

This is the first time Mr. Shivakumar appeared before the Lokayukta Police in connection with the case against him. Speaking to reporters after a two-hour interrogation, Mr. Shivakumar said: "Despite the State government transferring the case from the CBI to Lokayukta, the CBI has persisted in its probe, subjecting my close associates and family to undue pressure. Now, the Lokayukta is doing the same, all in the name of investigation".

The State government withdrew consent to the Central Bureau of Investigation for the DA case against him on November 23, 2023, and referred the case to the Lokayukta police, who had registered a DA case against Mr. Shivakumar in February 2024. CBI has now challenged the State government's decision to withdraw consent in the case in the Supreme Court and the case is still pending. "The CBI conducted its investigation but never summoned me for such intense questioning. The Lokayukta, however, is taking a different approach, which I find distressing," Mr. Shivakumar said.

He said he was initially summoned to appear before the Lokayukta Police on August 21, but he had sought more time due to prior commitments and appeared before them a day later on Thursday. He further said he would submit additional documents as directed by the Lokayukta police. When asked if further appearances before the Lokayukta Police would be required, Mr. Shivakumar indicated that he would be called after verification of the documents he would submit.

The FIR alleges that from 2013 to 2018, Mr. Shivakumar and his family acquired assets to the tune of ₹74.93 crore.

National Space Day to be celebrated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Various institutes in the city will celebrate the first National Space Day on Friday. The Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) along with its field stations across India, will be celebrating National Space Day with a number of public events, in commemoration of the landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the surface of the Moon.

The institute will organise two public talks at its campus in Koramangala. Rekhesh Mohan from the institute will talk at 2.30 p.m. about the space missions of IIA and why astronomers need to place telescopes in space. This will be followed by the release of an online image gallery of the UltraViolet Imaging Telescope. S. Seetha of Raman Research Institute and the former director of the Space Science Programme Office at ISRO will deliver a public talk at 4 p.m. on "Astronomy from Space Missions of India". The event is open to the public and has free admission.

The talks can also be followed live on the institute's YouTube channel.

Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium will hold several programmes on space for students and the public. Models of Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft LVM-3 launch vehicle, the interesting path taken by the spacecraft as well as colourful panels will be on display.

The Raman Research Institute celebrated the first National Space Day on Thursday. About 150 students from across seven schools participated.

Principal Secretary of Housing Dept. told not to officiate as acting chairperson of K-RERA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has said that the Principal Secretary of the Housing Department, cannot officiate as acting chairperson of the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA).

Noticing that the Principal Secretary is not a member of K-RERA and as the officer holds an administrative post in the State government, "it is not advisable for him to continue as the in-charge chairperson of K-RERA as there is no provision in the Karnataka Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Rules, 2017, for a third person/an officer of the State government to be nominated as an acting/in-charge chairperson to fill up the vacancy."

Justice R. Nataraj passed the interim order on August 21 on a petition filed by Srinivas V. of Bengaluru. The petitioner had questioned the notification issued in May this year appointing the Principal Secretary as acting chairperson of K-RERA. The court said the senior-most member of K-RERA should discharge functions as acting chairperson until the vacancy is filled by a fresh order of appointment.

Rakesh Singh appointed chairman of K-RERA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

IAS officer Rakesh Singh (retd) was appointed as the chairman of K-RERA on Thursday. The authority had been headless since May 22, 2024, after H.C. Kishore Chandra completed his term.

Mr. Singh superannuated earlier this year after 35 years of service and had held multiple posts concurrently for many years. Last week, he was appointed head of a dam safety panel formed by the Water Resources Department.

Conference on advanced material for sustainable technologies begins

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A two-day international conference on Advanced Materials for Sustainable Technologies organised by Ramaiah Institute of Technology (RIT), Bengaluru, in collaboration with King Mongkut's University of Technology, Thailand, commenced on Thursday.

Chief guest Tarun Souradeep, Director, Raman Research Institute, stressed the importance of advanced materials in day-to-day life and highlighted the need for research in this area. Chief guest, Malinee Sriariyanun, assistant to the president for University Internationalisation Strategies and Special Affairs at King Mongkut's University of Technology, stressed the value of advanced materials in engineering, technology, and health sciences. M.R. Seetharam, RIT Director and MLC, stressed the need for research in advanced materials in life.

An Apology

IMA has filed a Writ Petition before the Supreme Court against misleading advertisements and malicious campaign by some persons and entities against modern medicine professionals. With reference to certain statements made by me during an interview with PTI News, I have expressed regret to the Hon'ble Supreme Court and have also submitted my Affidavit to the Court for tendering my unconditional apology. I have also submitted to the Supreme Court that: -

- I had committed an error by making the statements in the interview conducted by PTI News, which was then reported in various news publications. Such statements ought not to have been made by me in relation to proceedings before the Supreme Court.
- I never had any intention to lower the majesty or dignity of the Supreme Court.

Dr. R V Asokan
National President, IMA
23.08.2024

Phone-in programme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will hold a phone-in programme on Friday.

According to a BWSSB release, chairman Ram Prasath Manohar will address the grievances of consumers relating to water billing, manhole overflowing, meter reading, improper water supply, and sanitary issues. Those interested in participating call 080-22945119 or 080-22229639 between 9.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

'KPSC hurriedly scheduling KAS prelim exam'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

P.C. Mohan, BJP MP, has expressed suspicion that the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) is hurriedly scheduling the KAS prelim exams under pressure from three members who are about to retire.

In a social media post, Mr. Mohan alleged that the exam question paper was printed a month in advance though generally it was a practice to print it just a week before the exam. He took exception to scheduling the prelim examination for gazetted probationers' posts on August 27, which is a working day. Pointing out that over two lakh candidates are set to appear for the prelims exam, Mr. Mohan questioned the urgency of holding the exam on a weekday. He urged the State government to intervene.

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(A statutory body under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI)
Changsari, Kamrup, Assam-781101, Website: www.aiimsguwahati.ac.in

Ref No. 1-74/2022-23/AIIMS/GHY/ADMN./CONT-APPOINT/1459 Date: 13.08.2024

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Guwahati intends to conduct **Walk-in-Interview** to recruit faculty in various departments on a Contractual Basis at AIIMS, Guwahati, tentatively on **20-21 September, 2024**. The details of category-wise vacancies are as under:

Sl. No.	DEPARTMENT	Additional Professor						Associate Professor						Assistant Professor						
		UR	OBC	SC	ST	EWS	Total	UR	OBC	SC	ST	EWS	Total	UR	OBC	SC	ST	EWS	Total	Total
1	Endocrinology	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	3
2	Gastroenterology	-	-	-	-	1	1	-		1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	3
3	Paediatrics	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
4	Psychiatry	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
5	Surgical Gastroenterology	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
6	Surgical Oncology	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
	Total	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	3	3	1	2	0	0	6	11

For detailed advertisement regarding eligibility criteria, essential qualification/experience, etc. and other terms & conditions, please visit **www.aiimsguwahati.ac.in.**

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13:15	Dep	Dharwad	Arr.	12:10
13:35/13:40	A/D	SSS Hubballi	A/D	11:00/11:05
15:38/15:40	A/D	Davangere	A/D	09:15/09:17
18:18/18:20	A/D	Tumakuru	A/D	06:32/06:34
18:58/19:00	A/D	Yesvantpur	A/D	05:55/05:57
19:45	Arr.	KSR Bengaluru	Dep.	05:45

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- Beneficial to Business & Software professionals travelling from Tumakuru region to Bengaluru
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By
V. SOMANNA
Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, Government of India

PUB/363/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25

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Illegally collected pelt and horns, snake, deer, and leopard skins, being readied to be disposed of at Jarakabande forest in Bengaluru in March 2018. K. MURALI KUMAR

African ivory carvings and 16-foot python skin were recovered from the house of a realtor who was trying to sell them in Bengaluru in June 2022. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

When creatures of the sea take flight

Enforcement agencies say marine species smuggling is on the rise, as several cases have been uncovered in Karnataka. Officials and conservationists tell **K. C. Deepika** and **Imran Gowhar** that though the number of cases is on the rise, this is just a small proportion of the actual quantum of marine life being smuggled to South Asian countries as many go undetected

Seahorses that were seized by officials of the Customs Preventive Unit while being smuggled on a bus in Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu in April 2018. BALACHANDAR L.

In a cruel irony, seahorses, whales, and sharks – creatures from the sea – are taking flight, literally and for the wrong reasons. Illegal wildlife trade is taking to the skies, and enforcement agencies say that smuggling of marine life has been on the rise for four years.

This year alone, some of the most startling seizures reported from Karnataka have involved marine life. Among the most notable cases was in August 2024, when two passengers from Tamil Nadu en route to Singapore via Mumbai were apprehended at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA). Based on a tip-off, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) busted an international smuggling racket engaged in the illegal trade of dried seahorses and recovered 6,626 seahorses from their baggage.

"The demand for seahorses in southeast Asian markets is primarily driven by their use in traditional medicine, gourmet cuisine, and as ornamental species for aquariums. In traditional Chinese medicine, seahorses are prized for their supposed health benefits, while they are also considered a delicacy in some culinary traditions. Additionally, their unique appearance makes them popular among marine enthusiasts," a DRI official explained.

The forest cell of the CID arrested four persons from Maharashtra who were trying to sell antique jewels and boxes made of tusks in February 2023.

Massive haul

The enforcement agencies, from 2023 to July this year, conducted 66 operations across Karnataka and recovered porcupine quills, Alexandrine parakeets, elephant tusks, spotted deer skin and horns, bison horns, 170 kilos of Stony corals, tiger nails, 9-foot long python skins, 55 ball pythons, 17 Thailand king cobras, capuchins, spider monkeys, spotted deer antlers, elephant bones, hippo tusks, owls, woodpeckers, jungle cat paws, nails and teeth, wild boar teeth, jackal teeth, red sand boa, otter skin, pangolin scales, 937 monitor lizard penis, 125 sea fans, leopard nails and civet cat jaws.

In addition to these, seizures included five kilos of ambergris and 116 kilos of sea shells.

Land route

Illegal wildlife trade has not left the land route behind. In May this year, a bus conductor thwarted a smuggling attempt of 218 endangered star tortoises when he observed movement in a passenger's bags. The CID forest cell, which further investigated the cases, raided five pet shops in Bengaluru and also recovered five-star turtles from the Koramangala house of a businessman who runs an online marketing company.

According to the Bengaluru police, as many as five cases under the Wildlife (Protection) Act have been registered this year where the accused, who were trying to sell sperm whale ambergris and corals smuggled from neighbouring Tamil Nadu, were caught. All the accused arrested worked as carriers who were offered money or a cut in the profit to hand over the consignments. Enforcement agencies admit that though the number of cases is on the rise, this is a small proportion of the actual quantum of marine life being smuggled to South Asian countries, as many go undetected. "There are few mechanisms to check on fishermen who venture into the sea and are supposed to catch only fish and leave out other marine life, which is prohibited. Due to lack of monitoring, they hunt down scheduled species and either directly sell them to the customers or hand over the catch to the smuggling racket, who would give them a cut in the profit," said a DRI official.

> There has been a marked increase in trade in exotic wildlife for pets, and this is driven by a variety of factors ranging from online trends to availability of certain species, to lacunae in legislation.
>
> **SUMANTH BINDUMADHAV,** Director, Wildlife Department, Humane Society International/India

According to the Counter Wildlife Trafficking Programme, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) - India, which produced a report on illegal wildlife trade in the pandemic-hit 2020 using online media reports and other publicly available information, 522 cases of wildlife poaching and illegal wildlife trade were reported from India. Notable species that were frequently documented include big cats, pangolins, tortoises and freshwater turtles, among others.

Species most at risk

Speaking about the species most at risk, Trishanti Paul, Lead Researcher of the Counter Wildlife Trafficking Programme, WCS-India, said over 1,900 kg of pangolin scales have been seized from the northeastern states between 2012 and 2024 (until August 2024).

"Illegal wildlife trade also impacts marine ecosystems, endangering the livelihood of fishing communities who depend on these species," noted Rebecca Lewis, another Lead Researcher at CWT.

In a separate assessment of illegal marine trade, they recorded a total of 14,188 kg of processed and dried fins seized across eight incidents between 2015 and 2021 in the country. Other marine species groups documented in illegal trade include sea cucumbers, seahorses, seashells, corals and rays.

Impact of pandemic

Sumanth Bindumadhav, Director of the Wildlife Department, Humane Society International/India, said an increase or decrease in wildlife trade is a factor of reporting and increased or decreased proactive enforcement of the law by concerned agencies, but what is apparent is that the diversity of species in trade is increasing with a shifting focus to lesser-known species like the pangolins, lorises, and several species of reptiles. "There has been a marked increase in trade in exotic wildlife for pets, and this is driven by a variety of factors ranging from online trends to availability of certain species, to lacunae in legislation," he said.

The pandemic, he said, played a role in creating a spike in trade. "Several individuals working in various cities were displaced overnight and forced to return to their hometowns. Many of them resorted to hunting and trade as a means to pay for themselves. It remains unclear if the spike was temporary or has stagnated at the same level. Still, the pandemic did witness an increase in the number of individuals bringing pets home, several of which were exotic. This fuelled the industry further and led to more fly-by-night establishments that breed and sell exotic wildlife with no consideration for their welfare. This is a cause of concern from a welfare standpoint and the point of view of invasive species threatening endemic flora and fauna," he added.

A case in point is the raid of a two-storeyed house at Lakshmipuram in Kolathur in August by a team of wildlife and customs officials. They seized 647 native Indian scheduled wildlife species and also arrested a 41-year-old dismissed constable running a multi-crore international wildlife trafficking network.

A probe revealed that the house was used as a godown or transit point for smuggling exotic species like monkeys and ball pythons and native Indian species like star tortoises. While the exotic species were sold to buyers, mainly through social media, the native Indian species were trafficked abroad.

Don't mention value

City-based wildlife consultant R. Sharath Babu, who helps enforcement agencies in cracking cases, said that in addition to better coordination between the agencies, the officials should not fix or mention the value of the seized wildlife or marine life articles. "This actually serves no purpose and increases poaching in many cases," he added.

Sumanth said the methods of trade and tools used are evolving far too rapidly, especially with the aid of digital tools, e-commerce platforms, and social media, but the primary law enforcement agency, the State Forest Department, is stretched too thin as the same set of officers are fighting forest fires, undertaking plantations, clearing encroachments, managing habitats, managing human-wildlife conflict and fighting illegal trade. "While these are dedicated agencies such as the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, they need to be staffed and equipped further. What is also missing at the moment are rescue centres and rehabilitation facilities that animals rescued from trade could be taken to. Most often, these animals are houses within existing zoos. This is worrying as animals coming in from trade could be host to pathogens that are yet unknown, may have come with trauma that needs specialized care, and have the potential to be rehabilitated and released. All of these needs a facility that is unique from a zoo, with staff who are trained specifically for rehab and not care for animals meant for exhibit and education," he said.

Systemically, what is required is a centralised wildlife crime database that is either Aadhaar-linked or linked to biometrics, he added. "Essentially, any person accused of violation of Wildlife Protection Act in any part of the country should be able to be finger-printed, and their history, if any, should be available so they may be prosecuted as a repeat offender, as penalties are harsher then, unlike a first-time offender. This would truly enable the law to act as a deterrent. Another systemic requirement is for a wide network of rehabilitation centres across the country for both endemic and exotic wildlife with specific skill sets. With trade in exotic species picking up steam as it is, there is a requirement to have an online database of all transactions of animals, linked to an RFID code that each animal in trade must carry so there is accountability on those who own these," Sumanth said.

Role of public effort

Curbing illegal wildlife trade also crucially depends on a collective public effort, said Kritika Balaji, Project Manager of the Counter Wildlife Trafficking Programme, WCS-India. "There is, unfortunately, a notable demand for wildlife and their parts and products within the country, underscoring support from citizens to tackle it. With demand for wildlife ranging from keeping them as status symbols to superstitious beliefs around purported benefits of their parts, the impact is far-ranging. A variety of species - from lesser-known butterflies and lizards to iconic tigers and rhinoceros - are affected."

Offering an example, she said that guided by compassion and a love for animals, one may feel inclined to buy wildlife such as birds and reptiles as pets.

"However, caring for these species can be incredibly complex, involving highly specific environmental conditions, diets, and social needs. Often, despite best efforts, these requirements are difficult to meet in domestic settings, resulting in poor health, behavioural issues, and shortened lifespans of the animals. Some wildlife may also be advertised as easy to care for due to being bred in captivity, but their lineage may still be traced back to wild populations, sometimes not very far in the past. This connection means that their demand as pets can perpetuate illegal trade, jeopardizing the survival of the species in the wild," she further explained, adding that a more impactful way to show our love for these creatures is to support conservation efforts that protect them in their natural habitats. "By doing so, we can help ensure that wildlife live harmoniously in their ecosystems, where they play vital roles and maintain a balance of nature," she said.

Diganth plays the lead in the upcoming Kannada film *Powder*, billed as a new-age comedy drama

On a rollercoaster ride

Vivek MV
vivek.mv@thehindu.co.in

Kannada actor Diganth's Instagram account features several snapshots of adventure activities. Pictures from his long rides – with friends or his wife and actor Aindrita Ray – reflect his love for cycling.

While meeting us, he gleefully hops onto a cycle for an early morning ride and opens up on his upcoming film *Powder,* set to release on August 23.

Directed by Janardhan Chikkanna (of *Gultoo* fame), *Powder* is Diganth's fourth release of the year after *Bachelor Party, Marigold*, and *The Judgement.*

Powder promises to be a comedy caper, with confusion and chaos thrown into the mix; Diganth uses cycling again as a metaphor to explain his current phase in the film industry.

"When you go on long rides on a cycle, you get exhausted climbing steep hills, so much so that you don't want to cycle again. But once you get past that challenge and hit the smooth road, you feel proud of yourself. Similarly, I have had my dull phase in films."

"However, this year has been very interesting for me. Apart from *Powder,* I also have *Laughing Buddha, Edagaiye Apghatakke Karana,* and *Uttarakaanda* to look forward to. Whenever I hit a road block in films, I always think of this up-and-down reality of cycling and motivate myself to be patient for the best times. Cycling has slowly become sort of a spiritual activity for me," he says.

Powder has an ensemble cast with Rangayana Raghu, Gopalkrishna Deshpande, Nagabhushan, Sharmiela Mandre, and Dhanya Ramkumar playing prominent roles. "It was excellent working with these actors," says Diganth.

"The director didn't have to try hard to generate humour. Be it Rangayana Raghu or Nagabhushan, they are very natural at comedy. They would understand the core idea of the scene and enhance it with their brilliant comic timing."

The trailer for *Powder* reveals the lead characters running around to possess a container of 'talcum powder' (drugs), which is supposedly worth ₹400 crore.

Powder is written by Deepak Venkatesh and jointly produced by KRG Studios and TVF Pictures; the movie is TVF's first venture into feature films.

"TVF is very popular in the web series space. They are known for their short comedy skits on YouTube as well. We got a lot of inputs on the evolving nature of the comedy genre from TVF," notes Diganth.

The actor hopes *Powder* will spur a series of feel-good comedies in the Kannada film industry, like the golden period in the late 2000s when Diganth featured in several well-made romantic comedies such as *Gaalipata, Mansaare,* and *Pancharangi*.

Life cycle Actor Diganth in a still from *Powder*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Diganth's boyish looks and fair complexion earned him the name "Doodh Peda" Diganth.

"Director Yogaraj Bhat thought I was a North Indian when he first met me on the sets of *Mungaru Male!*" he says, laughing.

Diganth played a cameo in the 2006 super-hit romantic drama starring Ganesh and Pooja Gandhi. "I remember Yogaraj Bhat asking me if I knew how to read Kannada while giving me the film's script. I laughed and said I am a Thirthahalli boy and a *pakka* Kannadiga," recollects Diganth.

However, Diganth has had a stop-start career thanks to injuries and selection of scripts. In a freak accident, the actor's eye got injured when his co-star Amyra accidentally threw a stiletto while performing a scene during the shoot for the Hindi film *Ticket to Hollywood* in 2017.

The actor also suffered a cervical spine injury when he fell off a trampoline while he was on vacation in Goa in 2022. He even shot some portions of *Bachelor Party* with a torn tendon on his left leg.

"These major injuries have been life-changing. After my eye injury, I couldn't do anything for two years. My mental health was severely affected as I couldn't do what I loved: cinema and adventure activities. After I recovered, I decided to be consistent with cycling and other forms of exercise. Since then, fitness has been integral to my life."

Science and the city

All in one, one in all Science Gallery Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On August 24, Science Gallery Bengaluru will launch Sci560 – Science in the City, a unique exhibition celebrating Bengaluru's evolution as India's leading science hub.

Sci560 features over 30 exhibits, offering a deep dive into the city's scientific heritage through historical discoveries, modern achievements, and interactive displays. Visitors can engage with scientific objects, maps, and archival photos, all highlighting Bengaluru's pivotal role in research and technology.

The launch weekend will kick off with a quiz hosted by Thejaswi Udupa at 6pm on August 24, followed by walkthroughs and a bilingual lecture on map-making by architect Naresh Narasimhan on August 25. Supported by Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies, Sci560 also includes a robust lineup of mentorship initiatives, workshops, public lectures, and a film festival. Registration and further details are available on the event's website.

Science Gallery Bengaluru is a not-for-profit public institution for research-based engagement targeted at young adults working at the intersection of the human, natural and social sciences, and engineering, art, and design.

SGB's public engagement model moves beyond participation, and towards proactive involvement through ever-changing research festivals anchored by interdisciplinary exhibitions, programmes, and public events consisting of research-based engagements led by artists and scholars from diverse backgrounds.

From August 24 to December 31 at Science Gallery Bengaluru. For information, visit sci560.scigalleryblr.org.

We speak to SG Club's head mixologist Reoma Mita, as the bar comes to Bengaluru for a pop-up

History in a highball

Taste of Tokyo The Golden Guy cocktail. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Anagha Maareesha
anagha.maareesha@thehindu.co.in

The Meiji period of Japanese history is one of modernisation, revolution and reform. A lot changed in the mid to late 1800s, including the culinary and social culture. SG Club, a bar in Tokyo, reimagines a bar of that era in modern times. Located in the iconic Shibuya district, it was started by Shingo Gokan in June 2018. The award-winning bar ranks as number 23 on the Asia's 50 Best Bars 2024 list.

Bengaluru is in for a treat as the head mixologist Reoma 'Oma' Mita comes to the city for a pop-up at Muro on Museum Road. In a fun conversation, he takes us through the history of cocktails in Japan, the bar's origin story, and his plans while in India.

"Today, Tokyo's bar culture is quite diverse, allowing you to choose a bar based on your mood and preferences. There are izakayas, music bars, casual bars and many other types of bars," says Oma, who started his career at a factory making concrete pillars. He read Shingo Gokan's profile in a magazine and decided to be a bartender. "I travelled to New York for the first time to meet Shingo, who was working at Angel's Share at the time. I started working as one of the founding members of the SG club when it opened in 2018, and after about five years, I finally became a bar manager."

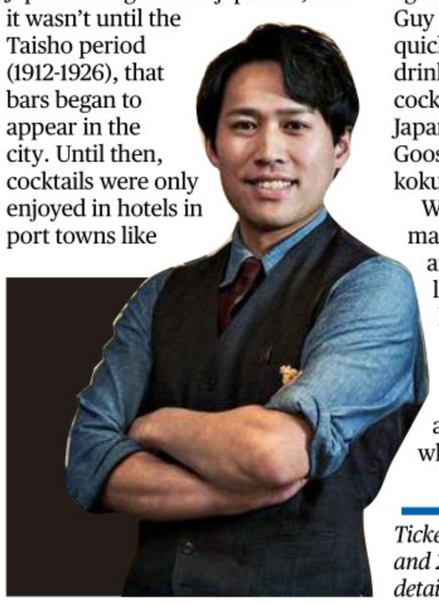
The last samurai

The history of cocktails in Japan stretches back to the Meiji era. In the 1860s, a Japanese diplomatic mission, made up of 77 samurai, set sail on the Kanrin Maru ship to San Francisco. When the group reached New York City they stopped by Broadway and visited legendary bartender Jerry Thomas' bar. These samurai were welcomed warmly by the Americans and Thomas made a special cocktail in their honour.

By this time Japan was opening up to western relations and ending its isolationist foreign policy. These samurai, who were diplomatic ambassadors, were the last few as just a decade or so later, the samurai status was abolished in the 1870s. When they returned from Europe, they brought with them a lot of new ideas and cultures.

SG Club imagines the kind of American bar that these well-travelled samurai would have opened when they returned to the country.

"Cocktails were introduced to Japan during the Meiji period, but it wasn't until the Taisho period (1912-1926), that bars began to appear in the city. Until then, cocktails were only enjoyed in hotels in port towns like Rokumeikan and Yokohama," Oma explains.



Bars opened in big cities such as Tokyo and Osaka, but only the wealthy enjoyed cocktails. Post the Second World War, cocktails began to attract the attention of the Japanese. "Torys Bar was opened in 1950. Gradually, a wide variety of alcoholic beverages became available. In the mid-'60s, the number of women coming out to bars increased, contributing to the popularity of cocktails," he says.

More than just yuzu

At SG Club, unique Japanese ingredients are used in the making of the cocktails. Think shiso, a fresh herb, yomogi, Japanese mugwort, and Japanese sugars such as wasanbon and kokuto. At the pop-up Oma is bringing some signature drinks and ingredients. Golden guy is a cocktail that blends Patron Silver, barley, yuzu, agave nectar and shiso ("Golden Guy in particular will sell out quickly," according to Oma). The drink simply called Japanese cocktail is inspired by the Japanese tea ceremony. It has Grey Goose, yomogi, wasanbon and kokuto.

While in India, Oma wants to make the most of his time here and take back some ideas. "I'd like to go bar hopping and try local Indian food, fruits, and spices. I would also like to learn about Indian culture and history, and then create an Indian-inspired cocktail when I return to Japan."

Tickets start at ₹2,950. August 23 and 24. At Muro, Museum Road. For details, call 080 69456060

Cabinet approves sale of 3,666 acres to JSW Steel under 'legal compulsion'

Though the lease-cum-sale agreement was executed in 2006-07, the governments had dithered over executing the sale deed in the subsequent years

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Thursday approved the execution of the absolute sale deed in favour of JSW Steel Ltd. for the extent of about 3,666 acres in Ballari district that has remained controversial for several years now.

While 2,000.58 acres of land is in Toranagall and Kurekuppa villages in Sandur taluk, 1,666 acres is in Toranagall, Musenayakanahalli, and Yarabanahalli.

A file photo of JSW Steel's integrated plant in Ballari district.

Dating back to 2006-07

Though the lease-cum-sale agreement was executed between the government and JSW Steel in 2006-2007, the governments had dithered in executing the sale deed in the subsequent years.

Incidentally, the current Law and Parliamentary Affairs, H.K. Patil, who briefed the media after the Cabinet meeting, was among the vocal opponents of handing over of the land without proper scrutiny. He told presspersons that the government had "legal compulsions" to execute the sale deed. "There is a writ of mandamus and we have decided to execute the sale deed," he said.

In 2019, the sale of land had come under a cloud after the Janata Dal (Secular)-Congress coalition was accused by the BJP of selling the land at a throwaway price, and Mr. Patil was among those who had sought the matter to be referred to the Cabinet sub-committee.

While the subsequent B.S. Yediyurappa's Cabinet decided to sell the land, it raised another round of uproar, with some of the dissent voices coming from within the BJP. In 2021, the High Court, while taking note that the Cabinet decision of April 26, 2021, had not been confirmed in the May 27, 2021, Cabinet meeting, had directed that the entire matter be relooked into by the Chief Minister. It also allowed the petitioner the liberty to take legal recourse again.

Approaching court

Currently, the Cabinet decision to execute the sale comes after the steel company approached the court seeking direction to the State government to execute the lease-cum-sale agreement signed in 2006 and 2007. The legal advice to the Cabinet also notes that the company pursuant to the land allotment has utilised the same for setting up the integrated steel plant and there was no breach of terms of the lease-cum-sale agreement. It was also felt that the State government cannot refuse the execution of the sale deed only on the ground of non-confirmation of the earlier Cabinet meeting.

MUDA 'scam': CLP backs Siddaramaiah; central leaders to be briefed today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah chairing the Congress Legislature Party meeting in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Ahead of his Delhi visit on Friday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday convened a meeting of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) and informed MLAs, MLCs, and MPs that he had done nothing wrong in the allotment of 14 sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) to his wife and sought their support to fight the case legally and politically.

The CLP adopted a one-line resolution extending full support to the Chief Minister in the alleged MUDA scam. MUDA allotted 14 sites to Parvathi, Chief Minister's wife, in lieu of 3.16 acres in Mysuru.

Plea to Murmu

The CLP decided to submit a memorandum to President Droupadi Murmu for recalling Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, who according to the Congress acted as an "agent of the ruling BJP at the Centre". The CLP also decided to intensify its protest against the Governor's decision to grant permission to prosecute of the Chief Minister, sources in the party said.

In the beginning, the Chief Minister informed the legislators that JD(S) and BJP hatched a plan to destabilise the Congress government by exerting pressure on the Raj Bhavan.

The Chief Minister told the legislators about facts related to the alleged MUDA scam and political developments that occurred after Mr. Gehlot granted permission to prosecute him on August 17. The Chief Minister has challenged the Governor's decision in the High Court and secured interim relief till August 29.

The Chief Minister also reportedly told the legislators that the Centre had planned to fix him and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar in the multi-crore Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation scam by issuing notices by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Industries Minister M.B. Patil and party MLAs S.N. Narayanaswamy and Abbayya Prasad spoke. Veteran party leader R.V. Deshpande moved the resolution and it was seconded by former Minister Tanvir Sait, sources said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar will go to Delhi on Friday and brief the party's central leaders, including AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, about the alleged scam and the legislators' support to the Chief Minister.

Despite the Chief Minister's claim that he had the backing of the party high command last week, Mr. Kharge and Mr. Gandhi have remained silent on the alleged MUDA scam. Sources maintained that the party high command was expected to clear its stand on the matter after the High Court takes up the case on August 29.

The NDA government led by the BJP at the Centre had embarrassed the Congress by raising the Valmiki corporation scam during the Budget session of Parliament.

BJP continues protests demanding CBI probe into MUDA 'irregularities'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok and BJP supporters protesting against the alleged involvement of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in MUDA scam, in Mandya on Thursday.

Heightening the attack on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the Opposition BJP staged a protest in all the district centres of the State on Thursday and demanded a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), claiming that several sites had been illegally allotted to his followers by the authority.

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok, who spearheaded the protest in Mandya that was held to condemn the alleged "insult" to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot by Congress leaders and to demand the resignation of Mr. Siddaramaiah in the wake of the Governor granting sanction for conducting an inquiry against him, maintained that only a CBI probe could expose the "big sharks" involved in the alleged irregularities in MUDA.

He said MUDA Chairman Mari Gowda, who is the close aide of Mr. Siddaramaiah, himself had written letters to the authorities concerned expressing concern over the alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites by the development authority.

Referring to the allegations that the lines in the documents showing Chief Minister's wife's request to MUDA authorities to grant her sites in a particular area had been "covered with whitener", Mr. Ashok said there was a dire need for a probe by the Central agency to bring out truth.

He also demanded an apology from the Congress for targeting the Governor for granting permission to inquire against the Chief Minister.

Meanwhile, addressing protesters at the Freedom Park in Bengaluru, Leader of the Opposition in the Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy urged Dalit leaders in the Congress, including legislators and MPs, to quit to register their protest over "injustice being meted out to Dalits" by the Congress by way of siphoning money from the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki ST Development Corporation and allegedly insulting the Governor who is a Dalit.

'Corrections in letter will be looked into if necessary'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Even as the Opposition BJP and JD(S) combine levelled charges of "tampering" of documents with regard to alleged irregularities in the allotment of 14 MUDA sites to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife, Parvathi, Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Thursday said the alleged erasure of a line using whitener in a 2014 letter – written by Ms. Parvathi to MUDA – would be looked into, if necessary. "The Opposition has made a statement. The SIT or the investigation agency will look into it if necessary," Dr. Parameshwara told reporters. The State government on July 14 constituted a one-man judicial commission to probe the alleged scam.

CM hits back at Opposition

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah hit back at the Opposition for accusing the Congress of "insulting" Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot because he is a Dalit, with a series of questions on his social media handle on Thursday.

"Firstly, if you truly respect and admire Mr. Gehlot, who belongs to the Dalit community, why did you bring him here and turn him into a 'caged parrot' instead of keeping him in the Union Cabinet? Why did you curtail his active political career and confine him, even though he wasn't old enough to be sent to the 'Margdarshak Mandal', which is akin to a political retirement home?" he sought to know.

He alleged that using him as a "pawn" for vendetta politics instead of giving him a ministerial role was a "grave injustice and insult to the Dalit community". He said the BJP always "uses and discards" Dalits as per convenience. "The BJP, which is trying to change the Constitution, opposes reservations, and secretly harbours caste discrimination, has no moral right to speak about Dalits. If you genuinely respect the Dalit community, stop putting political pressure on Mr. Gehlot to act against his conscience," he said.

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI
No: EE/PWD/KD/TS-2/Tender Notification/2024-25/ 2364 Date: 21.08.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of Work: Executive Engineer PWD Division Invites tender for the (06) Works under KKRDB & DMF. for indent No **13043, 14703, 13545, 14865, 14859. 13850.** 2) Estimate cost : **Min Rs. 16.00 Lakhs Max Rs. 200.00 Lakhs,** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Class IV,III,II,I & above, 4) EMD Amount: Rs. 30000.00 Rs. 170000.00, 5) Pre-Bid Meeting: **27.08.2024 (11.00 Hrs)**, 6) Last date for queries : **28.08.2024 (17.30 Hrs)**, 7) Last date for Submission of Bid: **29.08.2024 (16.00 Hrs)**, 9) Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **30.08.2024 (11.00 Hrs)** 10) Date of opening of Financial Bid (for Two Cover): **31.08.2024 (11.30 Hrs)**, 11) Enquiries :Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi, 12) Note: GST Will be Paid Separately, 13) Website: WWW.e-proc.Karnatak.gov.in, 14) Bidders Should Note That: Note: 1) Undersigned reserves the right to Cancel / Postpone/ Reject any or all the tenders at any point of time during tender process without assigning any reason. 2) Changes in the tender process will not be Published in the News Papers Bidders may get Details of Changes In KPPP Portal Only.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/368/KSMC&A/2024-25

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division Kalaburagi

Resident doctors call off strike

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the State government announcing a 25% stipend hike for resident doctors, members of the Karnataka Association of Resident Doctors (KARD) called off their indefinite protest on Thursday.

KARD president Sirish Shivaramaiah said the association members met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday and apprised him of their grievances. "He assured us that our stipend will be hiked and accordingly a Government Order was issued on Thursday announcing a 25% hike," he said. He said the government had assured of timely disbursement of stipends.

'Eddelu Karnataka' condemns conduct of Governor Gehlot

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Condemning the conduct of Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, 'Eddelu Karnataka' (Wake Up Karnataka), a civil society collective, has alleged that the Governor, who is the custodian of constitutional values, has himself acted against the Constitution.

"It is the responsibility of the Opposition parties to ensure that the State government's administration moves in a pro-people direction. Their act can be considered constructive only if they put pressure on the government to provide people-friendly governance and fulfil the assurances given in the ruling party's election manifesto. But all that they are doing is trying to uproot the constitutional government elected by the people of the State," said former Minister B.T. Lalitha Naik, on behalf of the collective.

"It has been the BJP's practice to jail the Opposition leaders by misusing constitutional institutions such as the CBI, ED, and I-T Department, and to topple elected governments through 'operation lotus'. Here, it is trying to topple the Karnataka government elected by the people by using the Governor. The JD(S) which is immersed in rank opportunism is providing the platform for the BJP's despicable politics. We decry the deceitful politics of these two parties. We warn that if the BJP and JD(S) do not rectify this, they will have to face a more bitter wrath of the State's people," she said. This does not mean that the collective is satisfied with the Congress' governance, she said and added that a thorough critical evaluation of its performance was required. "Drop your soft approach towards the BJP and Sangh Parivar forces at least now. Get rid of the internal agreements that your party functionaries at various levels have been harbouring with the right-wing forces. Stand firmly with the constitutional aspirations and take stern steps against the forces that are dividing the country," she said, referring to the Congress.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

BIRTH CENTENARY

CENTENARY BIRTHDAY REMEMBERANCE

Dr. U SRIDHARA RAU 23.08.1924 - 10.12.2010
Mrs. SAROJINI SRIDHARA RAU 28.03.1933 - 04.12.1987

Fondly Remembered By Son's & Daughter's in law
Dr. U. PRASAD RAU & Mrs. PADMINI PRASAD RAU
Shri. U. PRAKASH RAU & Mrs. ASHA PRAKASH RAU
Daughter's & Son's in law
Mrs. PRAMILLA KALKURA & Shri. T.N. KALKURA
Mrs. PRATHIBA PRABHAKAR & Dr. K. PRABHAKAR
GRAND CHILDREN'S & GREAT GRAND CHILDREN'S.
ALL Staff Members of Dr. U. SRIDHARA RAU DERMAL CENTRE.
Sarojini's Lab & SS Pharmacy

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981,
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Online booking: www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

DEATH

With profound grief, we mourn the sad demise of K. Dwarakanath (87), former Chairman & Director-General, Ordnance Factories Board, on 21st August at Bengaluru.He will be missed deeply by his wife Jaya, daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren and other family members. Phone:080-26640555

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Smt. **K.ANNAPOORANI alias PRABHA**
Superintendent (Retd.), T.N.E.B, Chennai
W/O. Sri.C.S.SUBRAMANIAM
EX-E.I.D - Parry, Chennai.
20.02.1940 - 23.08.2014

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear.

Rajesh & Family,
Usha Lakshmanan & Family and APPA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Client is desirous of purchasing the properties described in the Serial Nos. 1 to 10 of the Schedule written hereunder and hereinafter referred to as "THE SCHEDULE PROPERTIES", and we are undertaking a title scrutiny thereof. The following persons have represented to our Client that they are the owners, in the manner stated below :

Sl No. 1, Survey No. 20/2, Srinivas A.K Bin Kandappa, Munivenkatappa bin Late Krishnappa, Nagaraju Bin Late Andeppa, 00 Acre 11 Guntas.
Sl No. 2, Survey No. 20/8, Poovanna Bin Andeppa, 00 Acre 09 Guntas.
Sl No. 3, Survey No. 20/10, Srinivas A.K Bin Kandappa, Munivenkatappa bin Late Krishnappa, Nagaraju Bin Late Andeppa, 00 Acre 16 Guntas excluding 01 Gunta Kharab.
Sl No. 4, Survey No. 20/18, Srinivas A.K Bin Kandappa, Munivenkatappa bin Late Krishnappa, Nagaraju Bin Late Andeppa, 00 Acre 06 Guntas.
Sl No. 5, Survey No. 20/20, Srinivas A.K Bin Kandappa, Munivenkatappa bin Late Krishnappa, Nagaraju Bin Late Andeppa, 00 Acre 02 Guntas.
Sl No. 6, Survey No. 20/3, P. Krishnegowda, 00 Acre 10 Guntas.
Sl No. 7, Survey No. 20/4, Nanjundappa, 00 Acre 6 Guntas.
Sl No. 8, Survey No. 21/4, Andeppa Bin Muniyappa,00 Acre 27 Guntas excluding 01 Gunta Kharab.
Sl No. 9, Survey No. 17/2, Shri. V Muniraju,00 Acre 06.08 Guntas excluding 0.04 Gunta Kharab.
Sl No. 10, Survey No. 17/3, Smt. Sukanya, 00 Acre 12 Guntas.

Any person/s asserting any right/s, interest, title or claim/s in respect of the Schedule Properties or any part/s thereof has any objection/s to such sale in favour of our Client, is hereby called upon to notify the undersigned in writing, within 10 days from the date of issuance of this Public Notice, along with documentary proof. If no such written objections/claims are received by the undersigned within the aforesaid period, our Client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claim/s and/or objection/s, whatsoever, with regard to Schedule Properties and will conclude the sale transaction, without entertaining any future claims.

SCHEDULE

1. All the piece and parcel of property bearing Survey No. 20/2, measuring 11 Guntas situated at Nosagere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District and bounded on:
East by : Survey No. 20/3 & 20/4
West by : Survey No. 20/1
North by : Road
South by : Survey No. 20/10 & 20/20.

2. All the piece and parcel of property bearing Survey No. 20/8, measuring 09 Guntas, situated at Nosagere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District and bounded on:
East by : Survey No. 19/1
West by : Survey No. 20/5
North by : Survey No. 20/7
South by : Survey No. 20/9

3. All the piece and parcel of property bearing Survey No.20/10, measuring 16 Guntas (Excluding 01 Gunta Kharab), situated at Nosagere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District and bounded on:
East by : Survey No.20/5
West by : Survey No.20/20
North by : Survey No. 20/4
South by : Survey No.20/11

4. All the piece and parcel of property bearing Survey No.20/18, measuring 06 Guntas, situated at Nosagere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District and bounded on:
East by : Survey No.20/12
West by : Survey No.26
North by : Survey No. 20/19
South by : Survey No. 20/17& 20/15

5. All the piece and parcel of property bearing Survey No.20/20, measuring 02 Guntas, situated at Nosagere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District and bounded on:
East by : Survey No.20/10
West by : Survey No.20/1
North by : Survey No. 20/2
South by : Survey No.20/11

6. All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Survey No.20/3, measuring 10 Guntas, situated at Nosagere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District and bounded on:
East by : Survey No. 20/5
West by : Survey No. 20/2
North by : Survey No. Railway track
South by : Survey No. 20/4

7. All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Survey No.20/4, measuring 06 Guntas, situated at Nosagere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District and bounded on:
East by : Survey No. 20/5
West by : Survey No. 20/2
North by : Survey No. 20/3
South by : Survey No. 20/10

8. All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Survey No.21/4, measuring 27 Guntas excluding 01 Gunta Kharab, situated at Nosagere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District and bounded on:
East by : Survey No. 19/1
West by : Survey No. 20/13, 20/16 & 21/3, 21/11
North by : Survey No. 21/2
South by : Survey No. 21/7

9. All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Survey No. 17/2, measuring 06.08 Guntas excluding 0.04 Gunta Kharab, situated at Nosagere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District and bounded on:
East by : Land belonging to Mr. Krishnappa
West by : Land belonging to Mr. Muniyamma
North by : Land belonging to Mr Chandranna
South by : Land belonging to Mr Puttanna

10. All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Survey No. 17/3, measuring12 Guntas, situated at Nosagere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District and bounded on:
East by : Land belonging to Mr. Krishnappa
West by : Land belonging to Mr. Muniyamma
North by : Land belonging to Mr Chandranna
South by : Land belonging to Mr Puttanna

Advocate Ramrao Kulkarni
#110/2, 1st Floor, Krishnappa Layout, Lal Bagh Road, Bengaluru - 560027, M - 9986354084

Why communities should regain their heirloom seeds and knowledge systems

Seed Stories documentary is a nuanced exploration of the efforts of barefoot ecologist Dr. Debal Deb and his team and their attempt to conserve over 1,000 endangered heirloom varieties of rice

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

Stills from Seed Stories. CHITRANGADA CHOUDHURY

Kunuji Kulusika crouches over a silver plate on which numerous little piles of seeds are arranged and reels off their names. There are about a dozen-odd types of seeds on the plate, including beans, small beans, horse gram, pigeon peas, mustard, corn, and niger seeds, a collection that Kunuji is evidently proud of, going by the broad smile she offers as she finishes going over the names. "These are seeds we have always grown," we hear her say in *Seed Stories,* a recently released documentary directed by Chitrangada Choudhury. "A bit of this, a bit of that... many different things... that is how we farm," continues the ebullient Kunuji, an indigenous agroecological farmer who lives in the Niyamgiri mountains of Odisha's Eastern Ghats, where the film is set. "Why should we go to the market for seeds?"

This documentary, which was screened at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) in collaboration with the Bengaluru Sustainability Forum (BSF), is part of Climate Charche, a series hosted and curated by BSF. According to the concept note for Climate Charche, the series is envisaged as a series of engagements on the interlinkages between different aspects of climate change and city systems. "These engagements for dialogue, deliberation and learning will be facilitated across different audience groups in the city, with an aim to exchange knowledge, and identify gaps in city level plans; foregrounding adaptation, resilience and climate justice," it states.

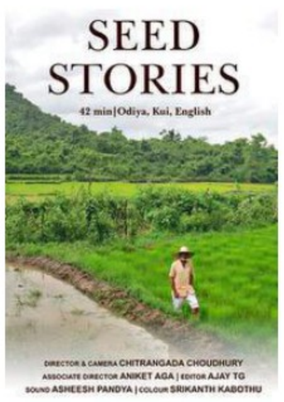
Seed Stories is a nuanced exploration of the efforts of barefoot ecologist Dr. Debal Deb and his team and their attempt to conserve over 1,000 endangered heirloom varieties of rice in a landscape starting to be besieged by genetically modified cotton seeds and the toxic chemicals needed to grow them. The documentary "takes a worm's eye view of how this is reshaping a geography and a people steeped in agroecological knowledge, and altering their attitudes towards farming, food and ecology," states the synopsis. It also invites its audience to reflect on the question of what sustainability really is.

(From left) Chitrangada Choudhury, Aniket Aga and Dr. Debal Deb at the session at NCBS. RAVI KUMAR BOYAPATI

About Seed Stories

Choudhury, an award-winning journalist and researcher based in Goa, says the film is part of a larger body of work that she has been working on for nearly two decades. "I am from Orissa, but I've spent the initial years of my journalistic career in Bombay and Delhi, reporting on Schedule Five landscapes: essentially areas where Scheduled Tribe populations are significant, like parts of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa," she says.

Her reportage often focuses on how mainstream development often translates into brutal and horrific forms of violence inflicted on the communities that live in these landscapes. "It is often justified in the name of development of the nation," says Choudhury, pointing out that these indigenous communities were often denigrated and seen as being backwards in mainstream policy and media narratives "because, how else do you justify the violence of the development project?"


SEED
STORIES
42 min|Odiya, Kui, English
DIRECTOR & CAMERA CHITRANGADA CHOUDHURY
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR ANIKET AGA | EDITOR AJAY TG
SOUND ASHEESH PANDYA | COLOUR SRIKANTH KABOTHU

Question of food sovereignty

Choudhury first met Deb in 2014 while profiling him for a national daily. Deb, she says, is sceptical about what he terms as a 'develop-mentality' – a project that demands an endless cycle of inputs, outputs, consumption and waste on a finite planet.

Choudhury and her associate director, Aniket Aga, then began volunteering at Deb's Basudha farm in the Rayagada district in southern Odisha from 2018 onwards. It was then that she noticed how, in this ecologically rich and sensitive part of India, there was a wealth of knowledge among the local people about sustaining biodiversity while maintaining their own food sovereignty. "This has largely disappeared now from the so-called developed parts of India, where communities have lost their own seeds and knowledge systems."

The film also captures a society on the brink of a monumental shift, the entry of a new form of agriculture, significantly endangering the old. While farming practices in this part of Odisha have a history that stretches back a few thousand years, cotton, which needs copious inputs, is slowly destroying them.

"This kind of chemicalised monoculture cannot coexist with their long-standing poly cropping systems," she says. "The erasure, again in the name of development, is what the film is essentially about." The process of documenting the dramatic change in agricultural practices and its impact on people's lives happened "spontaneously," says Choudhury. It made her think about visually documenting what she had observed and learnt since "in a few years probably this landscape will have irreversibly changed," she believes, referring to the inroads cotton is making on traditional agricultural practices in the region. She thinks of it as a slow and insidious form of violence, happening plot by plot, farm by farm, implicating people in these global cotton supply chains but on precarious terms. "As Dr. Deb says in the film, cotton – any cotton – is not right for that landscape. Once communities lose their own seeds, it will be tough to retrieve the ecological resources which had sustained them for so long," she says.

Shooting and more

Seed Stories, peppered with gorgeous shots of cloud-swathed hills sandwiched between fecund rice fields and an azure sky, is as much about the landscape the film is set in as the people who live and subsist on it. Close-ups of varicoloured seeds, scarlet bugs clustering on damp cotton bolls, an army of ants, a spider nestling in its gossamer web or a herbicide bottle jostle with sweeping shots of a train rumbling past grazing cattle, smouldering forests or cotton-studded fields, hinting both at the rich biodiversity of this region and the insidious, inevitable changes that are creeping into it. While most of these visual elements were captured between 2019 and 2022, the shoots were largely unplanned, states Choudhury. Instead, whenever Aga and she visited the farm to volunteer, they would visually chronicle what was happening around them. "It was a more sort of slow ethnographic process, also to build a rapport with people," she says.

They also worked closely with Chhattisgarh-based filmmaker and human rights activist Ajay T.G. to make the film, a primarily self-funded project. "We had a small grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation and a grant for post-production from the Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability (3CS) at Ashoka University," she says.

Film release

An early cut of the film premiered at the Kolkata People's Film Festival in January this year (KPFF 2024), an independent cinema festival. It has also been screened at the Chennai International Documentary & Short Film Festival, Festival delle Terre and the All Things Living Environmental Film Festival (ALT EFF), as well as at several independent venues across the country. "We plan to try and just screen it to as many audiences as possible...educational institutions, environmental groups, civil society groups who are working on the ground and, of course, indigenous rights groups," she says.

To know more about Seed Stories *visit https://www.ourcinema.in/festival/film/seed-stories/*

Kannada writers find a voice in city's CBD area

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Despite Bengaluru being a melting pot of cultures and a hub for innovation, contemporary Kannada writers often find themselves sidelined, with limited opportunities to showcase their work to a broader readership.

They feel that Kannada as a language and literature has seen some neglect in the Central Business District (CBD) of Bengaluru, where literary and cultural events rarely spotlight the local language. The absence of dedicated platforms and events for Kannada writers in the city's heart alienates a significant portion of the population that seeks to engage with literature in their mother tongue.

To make Kannada contemporary writers' work more accessible and to have engaging Kannada literature events in the CBD area, Kannada author Vasudhendra, along with the publishing house Chanda Pustaka started by him, is conducting *Naakolle Maathu*, at The Bookworm on Church Street. It is a series of talks conducted by Vasudhendra along with contemporary Kannada writers on every fourth Saturday of the month, which was started in July this year. As part of series, on August 24, at 6 p.m, Vasudhendra will discuss the contemporary Kannada writing world with writers M.R. Dattatri and Cheemanahalli Ramesh Babu.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, the author said that contemporary writers in Kannada are not receiving the recognition they need, and this event will help them share their work. "Literary events in Kannada are mostly focused on book launches, government events or celebrations, senior writers and their work. No one talks or discusses work with contemporary writers. Through this event, we want to focus on the challenges writers face in today's world, what are their tasks as writers, and what can be done to help their work flourish."

Vasudhendra says that along with focusing on contemporary writers, their aim was also to bring in more Kannada literary events in areas like Church Street. "We decided not to have live streaming of the event, because we wanted more audience to gather, and make people realise that Kannada events are possible in areas like Church Street, Brigade Road or M.G. Road."

South Indian Adivasi Knowledge Centre to be launched in B.R. Hills

This new centre, Kaanu, which means evergreen forest, aims to be the first ever knowledge centre on South Indian Adivasi past, present and culture

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kaanu, a South Indian Adivasi Knowledge Centre, will be launched at the Tribal Health Resource Centre (THRC) at BR Hills, Karnataka on Sunday, August 25.

Prashanth N. Srinivas, a medical doctor and public health researcher working at the Institute of Public Health, Bangalore's field station in B.R. Hills, says that Kaanu, which means evergreen forest in both Kannada and Soliga language, "aims to be the first ever knowledge centre on South Indian Adivasi past, present and culture: a tree of knowledge."

Kaanu workshop Muntipalya.

Three branches

According to him, Kaanu will have three branches: a library, where publications on and by tribal communities of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu can be consulted by interested researchers and the general public; the Kaanu annotated bibliography, with over 1,200 works on historical and contemporary works on the South Indian Adivasi world and a book co-written by South Indian Adivasi and non-Adivasi scholars.

"It is the Kaanu library that will be formally inaugurated this Sunday," he says, adding that the Kaanu annotated bibliography will come online in September and can be accessed at no cost from all over the world. The book, says Srinivas, is still in its preliminary stage.

This initiative, the brainchild of a collective comprising of leaders and scholars from several South Indian Adivasi communities as well as non-Adivasi researchers having a long association with them, has its genesis in a writing workshop held at the foothills of BRT, in Muntipalya, says Srinivas. While the idea of a South Indian Adivasi Knowledge Centre (SIAKC) circulated for years among them, they came together in June 2023 during that workshop, he says. "The launch of Kaanu now is the result of one more year of hard work."

So, why the need for an initiative like this? "While the history and the actual living environment of the bigger Adivasi communities in the Central Tribal Belt and to a lesser extent the North East are well documented, much less is available on the smaller Adivasi groups in the deep South," says Srinivas. Outside of their own communities very little is known, he believes. "Even what is known is often inaccessible, scattered among a handful of university libraries and specialised websites," he says. Also, the Adivasis' own perspective is often absent, he points out. "In these circumstances, bringing together and making available scholarly and local knowledge is a laudable aim."

For more information on Kaanu, the collective can be addressed at infokaanu@gmail.com .

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 23, 1974

Police Probe into Fire Accident in Sub Treasury

Bangalore, Aug. 22: The police was investigating the loss of currency notes in a fire accident at the Sub-Treasury, Mundargi, on August 2, Mr. M.Y. Ghorpade, Finance Minister, told the Karnataka Assembly today.

Making a statement in reporise to a calling attention notice of Mr. B.G. Banakar (Cong.) the Minister said that immediately on receipt of the information about the loss the Director of Treasuries visited the spot and sent his preliminary report to the Government.

The cash chest at the Treasury was closed around 7.30 p.m. on August 1. The closing balance amount was Rs. 6,47,100.

Cut in Funds For Minor Irrigation Works Opposed

Bangalore, August 22: The Karnataka Assembly to-day had an inconclusive discussion on the supplementary demands (first instalment) for 1974-75 amounting to Rs. 23.71 crores.

Initiating the discussion, Mr. S. Bangarappa (Ind.) said the Government should spell out more clearly the schemes and programmes which would be affected by the Economy Order. He said that though the ban on transfers of officials was welcome, some routine transfers were continuing at the instance of ministers.

Mr. Bangarappa opposed the application of the Economy Order to minor irrigation and Health Department schemes. He urged the Government to secure assistance from the Government of India for the rural communications programmes.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

IN SHORT

Bidar as the capital of Bahmani

Among the 18 Bahmani Sultans, the first eight, including Alauddin Bahman Shah, Mohammad Shah I, Mujahid Shah, Dawood Shah, Mohammad Shah–II, Ghiyasudin Shah, Shamshuddin Shah and Feruz Shah -- made Gulbarga as the capital.
On the other hand, Ahmad Shah-I, Ahmad Shah-II, Humayun Shah, including others made Bidar as the capital of Bahmani.

Construction of the 50-feet-thick fort wall

Though the foundation of the Gulbarga fort is known to have been laid by Kakatiyas of Warangal in the 12th century and was further fortified by the Qutub Shahi dynasty to some extent, it was the Bahmani Sultans who reconstructed the engineering marvel of the time by building a two-layered fortification of 50-feet-thick fort wall.

The longest cannon in the world

The Gulbarga fort houses the 'Bada Gazi toph', which is claimed to be the longest cannon in the world. It measures 29 feet with a circumference of 7.6 feet and a diameter of 2 feet. This weaponry weighs anywhere between 70 and 75 tonnes. With Sharanabasaveshwar lake (formerly known as Mehboob Sagar) in the background gives a picturesque view.

The first funerary structure to be built

The first funerary structure to be built here was the tomb of Alauddin Mujahid Shah, followed by Dawood Shah's mausoleum, the double tomb architectural type.
On the opposite side of Dawood Shah's tomb are the tombs of Ghiyasuddin Shah and Shamsuddin Shah. The tomb of Firuz Shah is the largest in the royal funerary complex.

Enroachment against illegal structures

This Archaeological Survey of India protected monument is encroached with 194 illegal structures. It may be noticed that the illegal occupants and shops within the fort area have been provided with all basic facilities such as electricity connections and water supply. Commercial buildings continue to mushroom within the regulated 300-metre radius of the fort.

A fort that symbolises independence of Deccan from the clutches of Delhi

Alauddin Hasan Gangu Bahman Shah implemented the administrative reforms, established state administrations, and enacted policies to promote tax collection

Praveen B. Para
KALABURAGI

The magnificent remains of the 14th Century Gulbarga Fort, from where around eighteen Bahmani kings ruled for 200 years (from 1347 to 1527 AD), is a symbol of the history, art and legacy of Bahmani Sultanate - the first independent Muslim Kingdom of the Deccan.

Around 677 years ago, in August, 1347, the Bahmani Kingdom rose to power under the Turkish governor Alauddin Hassan Gangu Bahman Shah (earlier known as Zafar Khan), who revolted against the Delhi Sultan - Muhammad Bin Tughlaq - to establish an independent Deccan state covering parts of the present-day Karnataka, Maharashtra and parts of undivided Andhra Pradesh, with Kalaburagi / Gulbarga (earlier known as Hasnabad) as its capital.

The founder of the Bahmani Sultanate, Alauddin Hasan Gangu Bahman Shah, implemented the administrative reforms, established state administrations, and enacted policies to promote tax collection. Although his reign was short, his vision and achievements laid the foundation for the prosperity and longevity of the Bahmani kingdom, acknowledge historians.

Origin during Kakatiyas

Though the foundation of the Gulbarga fort is known to have been laid by Kakatiyas of Warangal in the 12th century and was further fortified by the Qutub Shahi dynasty to some extent, it was the Bahmani Sultans who reconstructed the engineering marvel of the time by building a two-layered fortification of 50-feet-thick fort wall with the inner layer higher than the outer one.

It displays an almost impregnable system with 90 feet-wide moat surrounding its three miles of fortifications. Around 15 towers with 26 canons - including the world's largest cannon measuring 29 feet in length -- made it one of the mightiest fortresses of South India. The juxtaposition of an ancient astounding fort with Sharanabasaveshwar Lake (formerly known as Mehboob Sagar) in the background is picturesque. The Bahmani Sultans contributed to art by encouraging craftsmanship from different regions. The combination of Persian, Turkish and Indian art and architectural techniques resulted in the evolution of a distinctive Deccani style that could be seen in Gulbarga Fort which also displays some of the finest aspects of Persian architecture.

Gulbarga Fort is well fortified with double-layered wall surrounded by a moat. ARUN KULKARNI

A 29-feet cannon in Gulbarga fort is said to be the world's longest cannon. ARUN KULKARNI

Hathi Darwaza - a fortified entrance gate on the western side of the fort. ARUN KULKARNI

Bala Hisar

The Bala Hisar situated at the eastern entrance is a formidable structure equipped with three cannons placed on circular towers. Standing at an altitude of 61 feet, it is the highest peak in the fort.

The Jama Masjid, built inside the fort by Muhammad Shah-I to commemorate Gulbarga as the capital of the Bahmani Sultanate, is an example of the architectural excellence of Bahamani engineers. The structure of Jama Masjid, designed by a Moorish architect Rafi from Qazvin in Iran, is inspired by the Great Mosque of Cordoba in Spain.

It is 216-foot-wide and 176-foot-long with an open courtyard. The outer avenue surrounds the prayer hall on three sides and has low open arcades with arches, forming a rectangular layout with ten bays each on the northern and southern ends and seven bays on the eastern side.

The Masjid is an example of Bahmani architecture blending the Persian, Moorish and Indian styles. The absence of minarets and water pools for ablution in the Masjid suggests the possibility that it might have served primarily as a civic monument.

Entrance gates

The fort has two gates - the Bada Darwaza to the east and the Hathi Darwaza to the west. It also has three tunnels - the first one is next to the Bada Darwaza, the second one is on the south side of the fort, and the third one opens on the west side. The Haathi Darwaza, the west gate, is a massive western gate with 15-foot-high wooden doors studded with iron spikes and knobs designed to prevent elephants from battering them in. It has a long-built winding serpentine passageway with five gates/checkpoints, each one is designed and fortified in such a way that no intruder can pass through them unharmed.

Interfaith marriage

At the beginning of the 15th Century, the nuptials of Sultan Firuz Shah with the daughter of King Deva Raya of Vijayanagara Kingdom brought both dynasties together, bridging two different cultures and religions. The arrival of a Hindu queen must have strengthened the communal fabric across the kingdoms and helped bridge the religious divide. The sultanate had a broad policy of not interfering with the faith traditions of other cultures but also in their Indo-Persian architectural style.

Bahmani Sultans promoted religious tolerance, and the policy of religious inclusiveness helped foster a harmonious society within the Bahmani Sultanate. The existence of a dilapidated temple structure (said to be Someshwar Temple) near the south tunnel in the Bahmani fort stand as exemplification of syncretic culture.

Tombs on the premises

The tombs of the first three Bahmani Sultans Alauddin Hasan Bahamani Shah (founder of the dynasty), Muhammad Shah-I and Muhammad Shah-II are situated near the Dargah of Sheikh Sirajuddin Junaidi, the spiritual advisor of the early Bahmani Sultans, nearly half-a-kilometre west from the fort.

On the eastern fringe, three kilometres away from the fort lies the second-late royal funerary complex of the Bahmani Sultans, called Haft Gumbad (seven tombs). Of the seven tombs, four are Sultans' tombs. The mausoleum is raised on low platforms and arranged in chronological sequence west-to-east direction. The first funerary structure to be built here was the tomb of Alauddin Mujahid Shah, followed by Dawood Shah's mausoleum, the double tomb architectural type. The tomb of Firuz Shah is the largest in the royal funerary complex. It represents the completion of the early phase of Bahmani funerary architecture testifying to Firuz Shah's wisdom, diverse interests and vast knowledge.

Picture of neglect

The High Court has ordered the eviction of the 194 illegal constructions inside the fort and also for removal of 176 unauthorised constructions around the fort within the regulated areas as per the AMASR Act

Praveen B. Para
KALABURAGI

With apathy of successive governments, the 14th Century Gulbarga Fort that had once been a glory of the Bahmani Sultanate stands today as a picture of neglect. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is responsible for the maintenance, conservation and preservation of these historical monuments.

Activist K.M. Mujeebuddin, who has been fighting to protect the ancient monuments in this region, said that though the Ministry of Culture had allocated funds to the tune of ₹5.88 crore to ASI during 2017-18 to protect and restore ancient monuments and sites in the Kalyana Karnataka region, the ASI has merely spent ₹39.6 lakhs.

However, in 2011, the ASI took up some repairing and patching works including the construction of a concrete bed surrounding the Jama Masjid, the renovation of another mosque (meant for women) and the beautification and laying of grass lawns around Bala Hisar.

"Yet, the effects of time, weather conditions and ASI's negligence are evident. The thick vegetation growing across the walls poses a threat to the fort," Mr. Mujebuddin added.

A rare gold coin minted during the Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah period.

Mohammad Ismail, a numismatist from Kalaburagi who owns a complete series of Bahmani Kingdom coins, meticulously worked and illustrated the historical background of each coin of the Bahmani Era in his book. Mr. Ismail believes that the study of coins can shed light on the history of a particular period to some extent. The numismatist also spearheads a campaign "Save Coin - Save Heritage" to create awareness of ancient coins in educational institutions and pass on historical heritage to future generations.

Now, the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB) has come forward to renovate the fort with an allocation of ₹12.49 crore under its Mega Macro works in 2022-23. The dredging and cleaning of the massive moat around the fort which was filled with dirt, sludge and thorny bushes is now underway.

Encroachments

The High Court has ordered the eviction of the 194 illegal constructions inside the fort and also for removal 176 unauthorised constructions around the fort within the regulated areas as per the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (AMASR Act). The order is yet to be implemented. The commercial buildings, residential layouts and government offices continue to mushroom within the regulated 300-metre radius of the fort and any action to curb the encroachment is hardly seen.

Pharma blast: ex gratia of ₹1 crore to be given to kin of deceased

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu met the employees who were injured in the industrial accident at the plant of Escientia Advanced Sciences Private Limited at the Atchutapuram Special Economic Zone in Anakapalli district on Thursday. He announced an ex gratia of ₹1 crore to the kin of the deceased, ₹50 lakh for the severely injured and ₹25 lakh for those who suffered minor injuries.

Mr. Naidu interacted with a few employees undergoing treatment in the ICU of the Medicover Hospitals near Venkojipalem here and enquired about their health.

Produce full Hema panel report: HC

Kerala High Court admits PIL for registering criminal cases for sexual exploitation and harassment of women in Malayalam film industry; says if government does not take any action, all exercise done to constitute the committee will become futile

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Thursday admitted a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking a directive to the Kerala government to initiate criminal proceedings against those who had committed sexual exploitation and harassment of women in the film industry as found by the Justice K. Hema Committee.

The court also directed the State government to produce a copy of the entire report of the committee in a sealed cover before it. The Bench comprising Acting Chief Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque and Justice S. Manu observed that if any cognizable offence is disclosed in the committee report, whether a criminal action is necessary or not is to be decided by the court.

No complaints

The State government is, as of now, unable to proceed in this matter for the simple reason that no one has come forward with a complaint. But the fact remains that the report discloses sexual exploitation and harassment of women.

"How to protect these vulnerable women and what action can be taken against the perpetrators of the crime are something that the court needs to address," the court said, adding that it is awaiting the government's stand on this aspect.

The court said serious issues had been highlighted in the report. The women who had deposed before the committee wanted to maintain anonymity. The report indicates instances of sexual harassment and exploitation of women working in the Malayalam film industry.

> How to protect these vulnerable women and what action can be taken against the perpetrators of the crime are something that the court needs to address
> **KERALA HIGH COURT**

The government could not ignore the report. The parties who deposed before the committee were a vulnerable section who do not wish to disclose about the harassment in public. If the government did not take any action, all exercise done to constitute the committee would become futile. Therefore action needs to be taken to protect these vulnerable women, it said. The petition, filed by Navas from Thiruvananthapuram, sought a directive to the State government to produce the uncensored version of the Hema Committee report and called for the production of all the records with the committee.

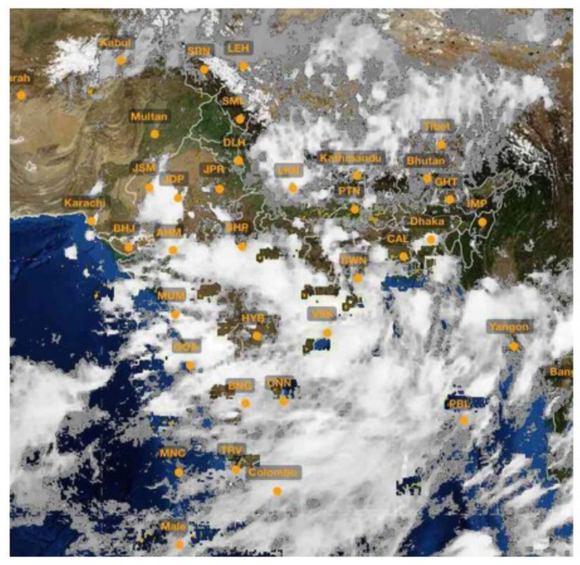
'UDF will act if it comes to power in 2026'

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president K. Sudhakaran has said the United Democratic Front (UDF) would prosecute sexual predators in the Malayalam film industry, irrespective of their influence, wealth or public stature, if it comes to power in Kerala in 2026. "The Pinarayi Vijayan government's neglect of the K. Hema Committee's grave findings ran against the grain of criminal jurisprudence and natural justice," Mr. Sudhakaran added.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Odisha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa and coastal Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	233	26.6	24.7	Kozhikode	11	31.6	24.7
Ahmedabad	15.4	34.0	27.4	Kurnool	42	32.4	23.6
Aizawl	39	27.3	22.1	Lucknow	15	32.3	26.4
Allahabad	10	35.2	27.4	Madurai	—	34.5	25.1
Bengaluru	—	28.2	20.2	Mangaluru	10	29.9	24.0
Bhopal	—	33.1	25.0	Mumbai	3	33.7	26.6
Bhubaneswar	34.2	29.0	26.6	Mysuru	0.6	28.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	35.7	27.2	New Delhi	—	36.6	26.6
Chennai	—	36.0	27.7	Patna	—	33.8	29.1
Coimbatore	0.2	32.0	24.1	Port Blair	—	28.0	24.4
Dehradun	32	31.2	23.3	Puducherry	—	34.2	26.4
Gangtok	13	22.9	18.5	Pune	18	34.6	24.7
Goa	4	30.1	25.6	Raipur	57.6	28.0	24.0
Guwahati	0.2	35.0	26.0	Ranchi	20	29.2	22.0
Hubballi	—	28.0	23.0	Shillong	1.1	22.9	17.5
Hyderabad	0.2	30.5	23.5	Shimla	—	27.0	19.5
Imphal	0.6	30.7	21.3	Srinagar	—	30.0	16.5
Jaipur	15	31.5	25.7	Thiruvananthapuram	4	31.6	23.9
Kochi	3	30.6	24.6	Tiruchi	—	35.7	26.0
Kohima	2	23.0	17.0	Vijayawada	—	32.6	28.1
Kolkata	3	33.4	26.5	Visakhapatnam	5	30.6	27.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.16	..37	25	... 176	99	
Bengaluru	...7	..33	75	 43	43	
Chennai	.14	6	78	 29	54	
Delhi	...2	113	23	... 100	...207	
Hyderabad	...8	..16	21	 21	...110	
Kolkata	.11	..31	28	 81	69	
Lucknow	.10	..37	44	 68	88	
Mumbai	...2	..23	26	 90	...123	
Pune	..—	..61	90	 72	62	
Visakhapatnam	.10	..39	25	 34	75	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jalna, Maharashtra recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 185 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Palkalaiperur, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Guidelines to act against violation have remained on paper: Karnataka HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

ANTI-PRE-NATAL SEX DETERMINATION LAW

Observing that guidelines on initiating action under the provisions of the Preconception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, appear to be only on paper, the High Court of Karnataka has said that none of the guidelines was adhered to while suspending the licence and registering a criminal case against a medical diagnostic centre for alleged violations.

"Leaving loopholes in law would only form a protective veneer to the violators of the law, if any. The loopholes should not blur the intent behind the enactment and the rigour of provisions of the Act," the court observed while directing the government to ensure that the authorities concerned strictly adhered to the guidelines while conducting inspection and registration of criminal cases under this law.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna issued the direction while quashed the criminal case registered against medical practitioner Subhalakshmi N., who is proprietor of Medizone Medical Centre, Kaggadasapura in Bengaluru, and Moscow Mani S.A., radiologist, and suspension of the licence of the medical centre.

pointing out that the health authorities had suspended the licence of a diagnostic centre and registered a criminal case against it even before issuing a notice asking to show cause why the licence should not be suspended, which is contrary to the law and the guidelines, which specifies that these actions should be taken after issuing notice and hearing replies from the alleged violators.

Meanwhile, the court

'Issue fresh notice'

However, the court directed the authorities to issue a fresh notice to which the petitioner-doctors would have to reply within a week. Also, the court gave liberty to the authorities to initiate fresh action, if need be, after the receipt of reply.

The court found that the licence of the centre was suspended on December 8, 2023, the day on which the inspection was conducted and also a show-cause notice was issued giving seven days to reply why the licence should not be suspended.

Apart from other violations such as not securing the signatures of four pregnant women who had come for scanning, the court noted that the complaint had also alleged that illegal prenatal sex determination of these four women was performed at the centre.

However, noticing that these four women were between five weeks and nine weeks of pregnancy as per the seized records and were referred by different doctors with prescriptions, the court observed, "It is un-understandable as to how between five weeks and nine weeks of pregnancy the determination of sex of the foetus can happen when it is in the public domain that sex of a foetus can be determined only after 12 to 14 weeks."

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT DIVISION, BELAGAVI.
PH NO.0831-2463850 / FAX NO.0831-2423008

No.EE /MI&GWDDD/BGM/TND/AE/2024-25/2869 Date:20-08-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-3&4)

As per KTTP Act-2000 and recent Amendments the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division Belagavi has invited the Item rate tender through KPPP (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Total 05 Nos. of Belgavi/Gokak Sub Divisions Estimate Amount Highest Rs.212.54 Lakhs & Lowest Rs.30.00 Lakh. 1. For KW-4 work: Date of Pre-tender meeting: 28-08-2024 at 11.00 AM, 2. Tender Receipt Last Date:29-08-2024 Evening 4.00 PM, 3. Tender Opening Date:30-08-2024 Evening 4.30 PM (if possible), 4. For Tender Details office address: Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division Belagavi & www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
M.I & GWDD Division, Belagavi.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-670/KSMCA/2024-25

ಆಹಾರ, ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಹಕ ವ್ಯವಹಾರಗಳ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ಆಯುಕ್ತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ನಂ.8, ಕನ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಹ್ಯಾಂ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಿಎಫ್ಎಸ್/ಐಟಿ-04/ಆರ್ಟಿ-ಟೆಂಡರ್/02/2024-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:20.08.2024

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನೋಟಿಫೀಕೇಷನ್

2024-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸಗಟು ಮತ್ತು ಚಿಲ್ಲರೆ ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆಗೆ ಆಸಕ್ತ ಅರ್ಹ ಬಿಡ್ದುದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ 223 ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಹಾರಧಾನ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು "ಎಫ್.ಸಿ.ಐ. ಗೋದಾಮುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಟಿ.ಎ.ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಎಂ.ಎಸ್./ ಕೆ.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ. / ಇತರೆ ಸಗಟು ಗೋದಾಮುಗಳಿಂದ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮೂಲಕವಾಗಿ ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಸದರಿ ಗೋದಾಮುಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನ್ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಮತ್ತು "ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಗೋದಾಮುಗಳಿಂದ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ರಸ್ತೆ ಮೂಲಕವಾಗಿ ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿ ನ್ಯಾಯಬೆಲೆ ಅಂಗಡಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಆಯುಕ್ತರು ಜ್ಞಾಪನಪತ್ರ ನೀಡಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಆಹಾರ, ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಹಕ ವ್ಯವಹಾರಗಳ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆಸಕ್ತ ಬಿಡ್ದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಿಂದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:23.08.2024 ರಿಂದ 09.09.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30ರವರೆಗೆ** ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಪ್ರಿ-ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.08.2024 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ,** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ (ಭರ್ತಿಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು): **09.09.2024ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ,** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ (ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ): **11.09.2024ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ,** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ (ಆಯುಕ್ತರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ): **18.09.2024ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.**

ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಸಗಟು ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ **ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.4.00 ಲಕ್ಷ (ರೂ. ನಾಲ್ಕು ಲಕ್ಷ ಮಾತ್ರ)** ಮತ್ತು ಚಿಲ್ಲರೆ ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.2.00 ಲಕ್ಷ (ರೂ. ಎರಡು ಲಕ್ಷ ಮಾತ್ರ)** ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ಲಾಟ್‌ಫಾರಂ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಾವತಿಸುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಅನ್ವಯ ಪ್ರೋಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ವೆಚ್ಚವನ್ನು ಪಾವತಿಸುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಒಪ್ಪುವ ಸಮಿತಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಯಾವುದೇ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸುವ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಡಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿದೆ. ಇತರೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಆಯುಕ್ತರು
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜೆಎ/1595/2024-25

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ : ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಅಸಂಘಟಿತ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಭದ್ರತಾ ಮಂಡಳಿ
"ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಸುರಕ್ಷಾ ಭವನ" ಡೈರಿ ಸರ್ಕಲ್, ಬನ್ನೇರುಘಟ್ಟ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560029
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-29759983/8883, Email:kuwssb@gmail.com
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: ksuwssb.karnataka.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಅಸಂಕಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸ್ಮಾರ್ಟ್‌ಕಾರ್ಡ್/ಕ.ಪ್ರಾ.ಹಾ.ಪ್ರಾ/ಟಿಆರ್-03&05/2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.08.2024

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಅಸಂಘಟಿತ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಭದ್ರತಾ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಇವರು ಅಸಂಘಟಿತ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಸ್ಮಾರ್ಟ್‌ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಅನ್ನು ಮುದ್ರಿಸಿ ವಿತರಿಸಲು ಸೂಕ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ, ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕವಾರು (ಹಾಸನ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ) ಇ-ಆಡಳಿತ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ, ಇ-ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮುಖಾಂತರ 7 ದಿನಗಳ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬಿಡ್‌ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **30.08.2024** ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **5.30 ಗಂಟೆ** ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಮತ್ತು ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
ವಿ.ಸೂ: ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರು ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕವಾರು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಜಂಟಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು ಹಾಗೂ
ಜಂಟಿ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅಸಂಘಟಿತ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ
ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಭದ್ರತಾ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/1588/ತಿರಡಿ ಸಾಮು/2024-25

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT URBAN DEVELOPMENT CELL
Ramanagara District, Ramanagara - 562 159.
Phone : 080 - 2727 4108. E-mail : dude_ramangara@yahoo.co.in

No. : R.D.U.D.C./MUN(1)/Amrutha Nagarothana-4/Kanakapura/CR/190/2022-23 Date : 21-08-2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Short Term Tender through KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, DUDC, Ramanagara District, Ramanagara invites tenders from Class-3 and above contractors for **Amrutha Nagarothana (Municipality)-4 Project** Works as detailed below.

1) Description of Work : Development of Road & Drain work at Ward No. 3, 27, 29 & 15 in Kanakapura CMC Limits (DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT17093), Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) : 126.99, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs) : 1.90, Stipulated Period : 06 Months, 2) Description of Work : Providing New Pipe Line from Arkavathi Birdge to MG Road in Ward No - 2 & Park Main Road in Ward No. 20 (DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT 17277), Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) : 59.30, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs) : 1.186, Stipulated Period : 03 Months, 3) Description of Work : Construction of Anganavadi Building, Compound Wall, Upgradation of Office Building & Construction of Rehablitation Center for Handicapped People in Kanakapura CMC Limits (DMA/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT17279), Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) : 130.14, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs) : 1.95, Stipulated Period : 06 Months.

Interested contractors shall register on the KPP Portal to participate in this tender. Contractors can download the tender documents from the **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** EMD and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically.

Calendar of Events and other information's are as follows

1) Pre-Bid Meeting Date : 28-08-2024 at 11:00 a.m., 2) Last Date for Uploading of Completed Tender Documents : 30-08-2024 at 17.30 p.m., 3) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) : 02-09-2024 at 11.00 a.m., 4) Date of Opening of Tenders (Financial Bids) : 06-09-2024 at 11:00 a.m.

Tender conditions and further information can be obtained from the said office during working hours. If any changes in the calendar of events and the conditions will be notified on KPP portal only and newspaper advertisement will not be published.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
District Urban Development Cell
Ramanagara District, Ramanagara.
DIPR/Ramanagar/260/Manipal/2024-25

Govt. of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Vijayapur
Tel.No:08352-277816, Fax.No:08352-277817,
E-Mail:zpebjp9@yahoo.co.in
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾಇಂ/ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇ.ವಿ/ವಿಜ/ಇಪ್ರಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2024-25/1525 ದಿನಾಂಕ:19.08.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System)

Executive Engineer, PRE Division, Vijayapura has invited e-tender for the works under the RIDF Nabard-28 scheme for the year 2022-23 Rs. 155.397 lakhs 3 Works & Rs. 160.592 lakhs 1 work vide Short Term Tender Publication No.1525 Date: 19.08.2024. For more information about the tender, the information can be collected at the website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in or visit the office of the said Division during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.R.E. Division, Vijayapur
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/186/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024-25

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites bids for the following Works.

No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/2024-25/3889-90 Date: 22.08.2024

1) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/ EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/EPR-56 Call-6 Dated: 31.12.2022 for Installation, integration & commissioning of additional 04Nos, 11kV MEI Make 31.5kA, 11kV Switchgears panels (SCADA& SAS/DAS Compatible) including supply of C&R panels, control cables and matching materials at Sir.M.V (EDC) GIS Receiving Station pertaining to BMAZ South Circle.

No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-/2024-25/3891-92 Date: 22.08.2024

2) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/23-24/EPR-29 Call-4 Dated: 03.02.2024 for the work of increasing vertical clearance of existing 66kV ITI-Hebbala-1 & 2 [Hebbala - L.R.Bande & Hebbala - Banaswadi tapped to pottery road] double circuit line between tower No. 06 & 07 in HMT Layout, R.T Nagar by providing 02 Nos of 66kV "DC+6" NBT KPTCL design towers in TLM Sub-division, Hoody in the jurisdiction of BMAZ South Circle.

No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/2024-25/F-180/3893-95 Date: 22.08.2024

3) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/24-25/EPR-08, Call-1, Dated: 22.08.2024 for the work of increasing the Vertical Clearance by providing DD+6, NBT tower between loc no 08 & 09, of existing 66kV Hebbala-Banaswadi (tapped to Pottery road) SC Line near Dhobi Ghat, HBR Layout, 2nd Block, 80 feet road in TLM Sub-Division, Hoody, Bengaluru, in the jurisdiction of BMAZ South Circle.

The Bids will be received through KPP Portal mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 23.08.2024.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer Ele, Tr (M), BMAZ, South Circle, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560009. Ph: 22386686/85

Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board
Office of the Chief Engineer
Jalamandali Compound, Sir.M. Vishveshvarayya Road,Dharwad-580 001
Tel No: 0836-2447090 E-mail: kwbcen@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Lumpsum Tender for the following work is invited (two tender document system) through e-Procurement portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from the eligible Agency / contractors who satisfy the Technical & Financial eligibility criteria. **This office Tender Notification No: 763 Dated: 20-08-2024.** Providing Underground Drainage System in Left out Areas in Chikodi Town under savings amount of Chikkodi UGD Scheme (Lumpsum). **KUWSDB/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT244/CALL-3.** For further information visit e-procurement portal or the Office of the Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S & D. Board, Dharwad may be contacted.

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER,
KUWS & D BOARD, DHARWAD.
DIPR/Dwd/293/2023-24/DeshpandePublicity

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Reg. Office: 30/1, 1st and 2nd Floor, UNI Building
Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru - 560051
CIN: U37100KA2021SGC147734, TAN: BLRB21071B
PAN: AAJCB8656M, Email: bluruswml2021@gmail.com

Ref: CGM/BSWML/PR/97/2024-25 Date: 22.08.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

To all the Stakeholders

Sub: Karnataka State Construction & Demolition Waste Management Policy & Strategy – 2024

To deal with the issue of rising C&D Waste generation in India, challenge of construction and demolition waste recycling and sustainable use of natural resources, the Government of India issued the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016 **("C&D Rules")** in March 2016. These rules apply to every waste resulting from construction, remodelling, repair and demolition of any civil structure of individual or organisation or governmental authority that generates construction and demolition waste. In addition to the C&D Rules, one of the focus areas under the Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban 2.0 - Operational Guidelines, October 2021 issued by MoHUA **("SBM 2 Guidelines")** is management of Construction and Demolition Waste.

Under Rule 9(1) of the C&D Rules, the Secretary in-charge, Urban Development in the state government is required to prepare the state policy document with respect to management of Construction and Demolition of waste in accordance with the provisions of C&D Rules. Pursuant to this provision, this Karnataka State Construction and Demolition Waste Management Policy and Strategy **("Karnataka C&D Policy & Strategy")** is being prepared for the state to sustainably manage the C&D Waste which is increasingly being generated within its urban and rural areas. This Karnataka C&D Policy & Strategy is applicable to all Urban Local Bodies and Zilla Panchayats (collectively referred to as, **"Local Authorities")** in the State of Karnataka and is aimed at relevant state authorities, functionaries of Local Authorities, waste generators including bulk waste generators, service providers and other stakeholders for proper management of Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste, control and minimize its indiscriminate illegal dumping and for recovery of resources from such waste. The Karnataka C&D Policy & Strategy is applicable to urban and rural areas in the state of Karnataka and therefore, for its implementation, the state along with the district administration is expected to ensure convergence and coordination of urban and rural authorities such that there is proper planning, procedures and implementation of the C&D Rules, Karnataka C&D Policy & Strategywith relevant by-laws and other applicable regulations.

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) is a subsidiary company of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Government of Karnataka Instituted for Management of Solid Waste and C&D waste in Bangalore City.

Hence, BSWML is hereby inviting the Government and non-Governmental stakeholder such as members of Government organisations like KPWD, NHAI, BMRCL, BESCOM, BDA, BWSSB, BMTC, K-RIDE, KRIDL, KSDB, KSPHC etc and Non-Governmental Stakeholders such as members of CREDAI, Bulk waste generators, Bulk waste vendors, Contractors, Non-Government Organisations etc to go through the Draft Karnataka State Construction and Demolition Waste Management Policy and Strategy-2024 published in Directorate of Municipal Administration Website (www.municipaladmn.gov.in) and BBMP website (www.bbmp.gov.in) and suggest/give valuable suggestions and additions that can be incorporated in the draft policy. The suggestions may be presented in the stakeholders meeting scheduled on 29.08.2024 at 03.30 PM at No. 30/1, 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru - 560051.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager
Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited
DIPR/CP/1608/2024-25

Death at work

A safety audit is essential to prevent industrial accidents

The blast at pharma company Escientia's plant in the Atchutapuram Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Anakapalli district, Andhra Pradesh, is the worst industrial accident in the region in recent times. Seventeen workers have died and many have been injured. On the same day, about 10 workers suffered injuries in a fire accident at a chemical factory in the same SEZ. Last year, on June 30, a massive explosion rocked a pharma plant, at the same SEZ, leading to deaths and injuries. The Atchutapuram SEZ, among the State's largest SEZs, is home to the factories of more than 100 companies. The rash of accidents revives memories of another deadly accident on May 7, 2020 – 12 people died after a styrene monomer vapour leak from a polymers unit at Venkatapuram village on the outskirts of Visakhapatnam. These accidents raise serious questions about the state of industrial safety in Andhra Pradesh, more specifically in the SEZ. State Home Minister V. Anitha has said that at Escientia, workers had tried to plug a solvent leak of the chemical/solvent MTBE (Methyl tert-butyl ether). Before the leak could be plugged, it fell on an electrical panel, leading to a fire and blast, she said. Meanwhile, the typical safety data sheet of MTBE – that operating personnel should have been familiar with – says that it is highly flammable and its vapour can also cause skin and eye irritation. In case of accidental release, it specifically cautions against the serious risk of fire and explosion and lays down the use of explosion-proof electrical/ventilating/lighting equipment.

Trade unions and activists are calling for stringent punishment to lax managements. They also complain of abysmal safety standards. Their demand is for an immediate and thorough safety audit of all units at the SEZs and elsewhere in Andhra Pradesh. A key complaint is exemption from government inspection given to units in SEZs and Export Processing Zones in a 2016 order that brought into force the system of online inspections. This exemption will apparently apply to high-risk ones also, such as pharma and chemicals, in SEZs. Another is exemption from inspections given to medium-risk industries which can self-certify, based on third party audits, regarding compliance with safety norms. Such government moves are intended to facilitate ease-of-doing business as frequent inspections by government staff may only lead to bribes and harassment without necessarily improving safety. While the intent is a well worked out practice across the world, the series of accidents calls for a broader probe including in SEZs in Andhra Pradesh so that any loopholes present can be fixed. Swift delivery of justice by punishing non-compliance of norms and the award of punitive damages will be a deterrent against ignoring safety.

Intriguing silence

India should switch to inactivated polio vaccine

The case of acute flaccid paralysis, likely due to polio, in a child from Tikrikilla in Meghalaya, and in the media spotlight, was reported by the State government on August 14. In April 2022, a case of vaccine-derived poliovirus was detected from an environmental sample collected in Kolkata. After genetic sequencing, it was considered likely to be immunodeficiency-related vaccine-derived poliovirus (iVDPV), excreted by an immune-deficient individual. In the Meghalaya incident, even after the government confirmed the case, there is still no official report on whether it is vaccine-derived and not caused by wild poliovirus. With the global eradication of the wild poliovirus (WPV) type 2 in 2015 and the WPV type 3 in 2019, respectively, and no WPV type 1 found in environment samples in India for years, it is highly unlikely that it is due to the WPV type 1 unless it has been imported into India. As of August 13, Afghanistan and Pakistan have reported 14 WPV type 1 cases this year. If vaccine-derived, there is again no official confirmation on whether it is iVDPV or from circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV). This information is key as cVDPV would mean that the virus is in circulation in the community, while iVDPV is restricted to the single immunodeficient child. Also puzzling is the absence of any official report on whether the case has been caused by the type-1, type-2 or type-3 vaccine-derived virus. India made the globally synchronised switch in 2016 from trivalent to bivalent oral polio vaccine that has only live, attenuated type 1 and type 3 virus. So, while it is impossible that the child has the type 2 virus from the oral vaccine given in India, the chances of cVDPV type 2 virus imported into India cannot be ruled out. In 2024, 68 cVDPV2 and four cVDPV1 cases were recorded globally. Many countries have reported cVDPV in environment samples.

The long delay in confirming these crucial details is intriguing as samples from the child were sent to the ICMR-NIV Mumbai unit, which is a part of the WHO network of 146 accredited polio laboratories worldwide and conducts research on diseases caused by enteroviruses, especially paralytic poliomyelitis and acute flaccid paralysis. Unlike in the case of IPV, immunodeficient children are not supposed to be administered OPV. Since identifying such children prior to administering OPV is a challenge in India, India will continue to have such cases in the future. The Meghalaya case again brings into focus the urgent need for India to stop using OPV and switch over exclusively to IPV. Most developed countries switched to IPV decades ago. There is no reason why India should not switch to IPV at the earliest.

Building on favourable change in the 2024 waqf Bill

The Waqf Bill 2024, or the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, has been referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) as the Narendra Modi government's own allies were not keen to get it passed immediately. Opposition parties were also critical of the Bill.

Faizan Mustafa

the Vice-Chancellor of Chanakya National Law University, Patna

The rationale of the family waqf

Some of their concerns are genuine as changes such as abolition of waqf by a user, and the granting of excess powers to the District Magistrate would lower the protection to waqf properties. Though there is hardly anything worthwhile in the Bill to effectively deal with the problem of the illegal encroachment of waqf properties, there are still some positive features such as a digitisation of waqfs and the inclusion of women and non-Muslims in waqf boards. Similarly, on the contentious issue of family waqf, the proposed reforms should be welcomed. Let us try to understand the rationale of the family waqf, how the colonial judiciary had responded to this unique kind of waqf, and the changes that have been made in the Muslim world.

Though the *Koran* does not specifically use the term waqf, there are some 20 verses that encourage people to do charity. Waqf is Islam's unique contribution to charity and is aimed at helping the poor and the underprivileged. Once a property becomes waqf, its corpus cannot be alienated, gifted or sold but its usufruct/use alone can be utilised. There are various types of charities in Islam such as *sadaqah* (voluntary giving of cash); *zakat* (mandatory 2.5%) and waqf (voluntary and general though not confined to immovable properties). Waqfs are of three types: waqf khari (public waqf) totally devoted to welfare of humanity; *waqf al-ahli or waqf alal-aulad* (family waqf) for the benefit of his family and *al-waqf al-mushtarak* (public and family waqf) for the combined benefit of both family and the larger society.

Family waqf is not only based on the English dictum of 'charity begins at home' but has theological sanction as family members must be given priority in charity. The *Koran* explicitly encourages the spending money on parents and relatives (2:215). The Prophet also said that, 'A dinar you spend in the path of Allah; a dinar you spend on a poor person; a dinar you spend on your family; greatest of them in reward is what you had spent on your family.'

Abu Talah 'Obid Allah was the first who created the family waqf with the concurrence of Prophet when after the revelation of the *Koranic* verse – 'By no means shall ye attain righteousness unless ye give (freely) of that which ye love' (3:92), he endowed his garden called Biruha. The Prophet's wives such as 'Aisha, Hafsah, Umm Salamah, Umm Habibah' created waqf for the benefit of their family members, and Safiyyah created a family waqf for the benefit of her brother who was a Jew. Similarly, almost all the companions who had properties, created waqfs. Some like the first Caliph Abu Bakr, endowed his house to his children; the second Caliph 'Omar endowed his land at Thamgh to his children; Sa'd ibn Abu Waqqas too endowed his house in Egypt and Madina to his kith.

> Some of the concerns expressed need to be acknowledged by the Joint Parliamentary Committee, but the positive features are what should be welcomed

Family waqfs were used in addition to pious reasons to protect property, particularly agrarian, from fragmentation. It was supposed to lead to the growth of fixed assets and protect property from the prodigal children and eventually be used for public welfare.

Scholars such as Murat Cizakca, Jeffrey A. Schoenblum, Gregory C. Kozlowski, AAA Fayee, and Ronald K. Wilson were critical of family waqfs. Their argument was that the family waqf was developed as an institution to defeat the women' right to inheritance and for "the aggrandisement of a family". There may be some truth in this conclusion, but the waqf has been historically used to overcome other problems of Islamic law of inheritance such as the exclusion of orphaned grandchildren. Family waqf gave this opportunity to [the] grandfather to make a waqf of one third of his property in favour of orphaned grandchildren. It also helped the founder or *waqif* to provide for the special care of his aged parents, and minor and disabled children. In many cases, including in this writer's family, daughters were made primary beneficiaries. Of course, in some cases, males were made beneficiaries and daughters just had the right to residence and subsistence allowance. In many cases, women were excluded as well.

Waqfs across the world

But under the Maliki law of the Sunni school, such endowments were null and void. Under the Shafi'i and Maliki schools, the creator of waqf cannot reserve any benefit for himself. But the Hanafi and Hanbali schools considered them valid as a provision for reserving a part of the benefits for himself, which may encourage people to create waqfs.

The Privy Council in Abdul Fata (1894) invalidated the family waqf as it considered the benefit to the general public to be too remote. But in 1913, this decision was overturned by the British government. Scholars such as J.N. Anderson and J. Hamilton had criticised this judgment as "wholly mistaken interpretation of Islamic law". Under the influence of colonialism, which preferred free transfer of ownership, several Muslim countries even abolished family waqfs. Egypt, in 1946, first restricted it to two generations and finally abolished it in 1951. Syria abolished it in 1949. Kuwait restricted it to two generations in 1951. Iraq permitted liquidation of the family waqf in 1954. Tunisia, Libya and the United Arab Emirates abolished the family waqf in 1954, 1973 and 1980, respectively. In countries such as India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia, family waqfs, though permitted, were not given privileges of waqf properties. Thus, in India, as family waqfs were not treated as charitable, they have not been included in waqf surveys. There is no effective statutory supervision of family waqfs. Unlike charitable trusts, family waqfs are not entitled to exemptions or tax reliefs from capital gain tax, stamp duty and inheritance tax.

Though the Income-Tax Act, 1961 exempts religious and charitable waqfs, under Section 13, income-tax is payable by the family waqf even in cases where income is to be used for family as well as religious or charitable purposes. Similarly, estate duty is applicable on the passing of property from one beneficiary to another though passing of property is alien to waqf jurisprudence. Many agrarian family waqfs were acquired by the government on nominal payments under land reform laws.

Section 2(1)(r) of the Waqf Act 1995 does include family waqfs within the definition of waqf. It says that when the line of succession fails, the income of such a waqf shall be spent on education, development and welfare.

A new section and impact

The newly proposed Section 3A(2) of 2024 Bill proposes a reform – that the family waqf shall not result in a denial of inheritance rights of heirs, including women heirs. The effect of this reform, which is welcome, is that a Muslim can now create a family waqf only in respect of a third of his property if he is excluding all his heirs; and, he cannot any more altogether exclude female heirs. But the problem with this provision is that if he gives even a token benefit to female heirs, i.e., much less than they are otherwise entitled to under Muslim law of inheritance, such a family waqf would remain valid.

The other problem is this: can we place similar restrictions on the testamentary powers of non-Muslims? A Hindu, for instance, under the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, can give away his entire property to a son to the exclusion of other heirs including female heirs. Hindu women's ownership of properties is nowhere near their legal entitlement under the 1956 Act.

Let the JPC improve this provision and bring in uniformity so that a Uniform Civil Code or Secular Civil Code, as and when it is enacted, incorporates it.

The views expressed are personal

The Kursk gambit, Ukrainian tactics and battle realities

The Ukrainians surprised Russia by launching an audacious attack into the Kursk region of the Russian Federation that also led to the capture of several hundred Russian soldiers. This bold, yet risky, gambit by the Volodymyr Zelenskyy-led regime, to employ thousands of its best fighting units to mount an incursion into Russian territory, was also a fitting one.

Harsh V. Pant

Vice-President for Studies at the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi

Kartik Bommankanti

Senior Fellow, National Security and Defence, at the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi

The importance of Pokrovsk

Kyiv has been at the receiving end of Russia's ongoing offensive inside Ukraine, which shows no sign of weakening despite Ukrainian territorial gains in Kursk. Russian forces are also poised to capture the Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk in the Eastern Donetsk region in Ukraine. Pokrovsk is a vital logistics hub that gives Ukrainian forces considerable defensive strength, but it is currently under siege from rapidly advancing Russian forces. Ukrainian forces are now being ordered to withdraw from Pokrovsk, allowing Russian forces to make not just a significant breakthrough but also pave the way for them to capture the whole of the Donetsk region.

Yet, the Ukrainian offensive stands out and deserves and merits closer scrutiny, because no country since Hitler's Germany has ever invaded any part of Russia. Kyiv had been preparing for this offensive for several months, but concealed it from its western backers – albeit, some may conclude western powers tacitly acquiesced, by frequently drawing attention to a possible Russian attack against the Sumy region of Ukraine which borders Kursk and painting its preparation in the run-up to the offensive as primarily defensive.

This turned out to be a credible cover for the Ukrainians to launch and pursue their ongoing offensive inside Kursk, which, in any case, was weakly defended by Russian military conscripts. From a Ukrainian standpoint, it makes sense to carry out the attack inside the Kursk Oblast in Russia simply because it compels the Russians, even if it is not fully evident yet, to divert and redeploy their forces to areas that were weakly defended. The depletion of Russian forces is likely to limit the intensity of the Russian offensive inside Ukraine. However, it is unclear whether the Ukrainians have factored in the consequences of a concentrated Russian counter-attack to repel the Ukrainian invasion of the Kursk Oblast. Russia has mass and firepower that is by an order of magnitude significantly greater than what the Ukrainians possess, despite the resumption of weapons supplies and munition stocks by Kyiv's western allies, especially the United States. Kyiv has a choice to make – whether to drive deeper into Russian territory or consolidate existing gains.

> Ukraine's bold move is intended to impress Kyiv's western arms patrons, which could pave the way for a settlement with Russia

Russia, for its part, is unlikely to relent in its ongoing offensive. In fact, there is no evidence to indicate that Moscow is relenting in its offensive to capture the whole of the Ukrainian region of Donetsk and more. It is possible that Moscow has gambled on making far greater and vital territorial gains while allowing some gains in Russia, as is visibly evident from its very probable capture of Pokrovsk – a key logistics centre for Kyiv.

Moscow is not blinking

A Russian takeover of Pokrovsk would set the stage for an additional offensive inside Ukraine. While Kyiv's gains in Kursk have been impressive, with Ukrainian forces taking roughly 1,000 square kilometres of territory, Moscow remains largely unmoved to redeploy forces away from Eastern Ukraine where it has significant initiative and momentum and controls roughly 1,00,000 thousand square kilometres. The latter explains why Moscow is not blinking yet because it knows the balance of territorial control is in its favour and not Kyiv's. At the most, there is some evidence of Moscow diverting some of its irregular and regular units from Kharkhiv for a counterattack against Ukrainian forces that are presently in occupation of a part of the Kursk Oblast.

The strength of Russia's response to Kyiv's surprise incursion may take time to crystallise with Moscow biding its time with the aim of consolidating its gains in Eastern Ukraine.

Kyiv's messaging

Ukraine's battlefield tactics, through the incursion of its forces into Kursk, are as much demonstrative and performative as they are to compel a *quid pro quo* with Moscow. The incursion is also intended to signal to and impress Kyiv's western arms patrons, especially the U.S., that Ukrainian forces are more than capable of seizing the initiative and mounting well-crafted offensives inside Russian territory to blunt Russian territorial gains in Eastern Ukraine. This ensures continued and sustained support from the West on which Ukraine can count, because it could actually win and pave the way in the long run for an end to armed hostilities and a settlement between Moscow and Kyiv. Any end to actual combat is unlikely at least until the early months of next year.

Kyiv also runs two risks: first, moving too deep inside Russian territory, thereby overstretching its forces. And second, of Ukrainian forces currently occupying Kursk, which are among Kyiv's best trained combat units, facing the prospect of significant losses, and possibly a humiliating retreat, once Russia redeploys and concentrates its military strength against Ukrainian-occupied Kursk.

Whether Kyiv's incursion into Russian territory was worth the risk, will only be revealed with the passage of time.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Industrial safety

After every major accident (Page 1, "17 workers killed as fire breaks out after 'reactor blast' at A.P. pharma plant", August 22), there will be loud noises for an inquiry. But these will die down in due course without going into the recommendations made by safety committees. In most of these accidents, "gross human failure" and a lack of basic safety norms are the factors that are highlighted. The regulatory framework on chemical safety is based on the Factories Act, 1948, Explosives Act, 1884; the Insecticides Act, 1968; the Petroleum Act, 1934, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Chemical Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness, and Response) Rules, 1996, Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 and the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008.

The Directorate, General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes amended the Factories Act, 1948, in 1987, notifying 29 types of industrial activities as hazardous processes and introduced special provisions for hazardous process industries in the Factories Act, First Schedule. A safety audit must be carried out every two years by law. The testing of on-site emergency plans every six months is a statutory requirement. Management of medical emergencies should also be tested in drills every year. Disclosure of information to workers on chemical hazards by way of material safety data sheets is a statutory requirement. But in India, most workers are not taught about the chemicals they work with. Corporate and enforcement negligence leading to industrial disasters needs to be highlighted.

A. Sathasivam,
Courtallam, Tamil Nadu

State of the film world

The Justice K. Hema Committee report has highlighted the exploitation in the film industry. It is startling that predation and discrimination plague Malayalam cinema in a State famed for its progressivism and political consciousness. Mollywood must be freed from the stranglehold of such producers, directors and actors.

Nagarajamani M.V.,
Hyderabad

Madras and its history

The Hindu must be lauded for its wonderful coverage on Madras city, and its history and culture. It is delightful that the city has many firsts to its credit. Chennai is perhaps the only city in the world where the sentiment is not "mine", but proudly "ours".

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Do we need a Central law for protection of healthcare professionals?

R.V. Asokan
is national president of the Indian Medical Association

Shanthi Ravindranath,
doctor-activist, is Secretary, Doctors' Association for Social Equality

PARLEY

Following the brutal rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata, the issue of violence against healthcare workers has come to the forefront, with medical professionals across India demanding the enactment of a Central law to protect healthcare workers. In 2019, a Bill on this issue was drafted by the Central government, but it never saw the light of day. Can a Central law ensure security for healthcare professionals at work? R.V. Asokan and Shanthi Ravindranath discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **C. Maya.** Edited excerpts:

Why has violence against healthcare workers been increasing across India?

R.V. Asokan: The violence that the postgraduate trainee doctor experienced (in Kolkata's R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital) is obviously very different from what doctors normally face. Generally, when there is an unexpected death, relatives sometimes get violent (with doctors and nurses). We have been seeing such incidents of violence in the last two-three decades. In fact, 25 States have enacted laws (to protect medical professionals), but unfortunately, there are very few convictions. The violence is due to patients' expectations, high out-of-pocket expenditure, and the lack of proper communication between doctors and patients. It is a complex subject.

Shanthi Ravindranath: WHO (the World Health Organization) says every country should spend at least 6% of the GDP on health. But few countries are doing this (India spend less than 2%). People need free, easily accessible, proper, and complete treatment. When they reach the hospital, they get angry because they are in distress. Ideally, this anger should be directed against the system. But unfortunately, it is taken out on the doctor who provides the treatment, who is the face of the hospital at that point, and who is in the emergency room. WHO also says violence against healthcare workers at the global level is 8%-38%. We need to increase GDP spending on health and strengthen the public health system so that people are provided proper treatment when they go to a hospital. This will help check such cases of violence.

Could better infrastructure and additional security measures in hospitals help?

SR: Most hospitals, especially government ones and medical colleges, use interns, postgraduate medical students, and super speciality students to run the show. As the main healthcare force, these people are made to work continuously for long hours. They are emotionally exploited and verbally abused at work. So, we have to improve the healthcare system not just by improving infrastructure, but also by ensuring that doctors' working hours are restricted to eight hours a day. Postgraduate students are there to learn and work, not to replace doctors who should be treating the patients. Recently, NMC (National Medical Commission) published a study which said that a majority of postgraduate students are suffering from mental health issues. This point should also be considered.

Doctors protest against the rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor of the Kolkata R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, in Prayagraj. ANI

RVA: The issues of patient-related violence can be brought down by improving communication (between doctors and patients), ensuring safety measures, and placing a security protocol in all hospitals, especially medical college hospitals. NMC has already come out with an advisory for medical colleges (emphasising the need for each medical college to develop and implement a comprehensive policy to enhance the safety of students and healthcare professionals within the campus and hospital premises). This can be really helpful.

SR: I also want to add that every hospital should have a hospital protection committee to check all aspects of hospital security. There should be CCTV cameras and security personnel, who should be accountable for the safety and security of all the people working in the hospital, especially healthcare workers.

In 2019, the Centre had drafted a Bill titled 'The Healthcare Service Personnel and Clinical Establishments (Prohibition of violence and damage to property) Bill, 2019'. However, the Centre took the stand that existing State and Central laws provide adequate legal protection for our health workforce and that all that we require in addition is the beefing up of security in hospitals. Do we need a Central Act to protect healthcare workers from violence?

> In Kerala, since the law was made stringent following the murder of Vandana Das in 2023, the incidence of violence has come down. There were a few instances of violence where the State acted quickly.
> R.V. ASOKAN

RVA: We don't understand what the Central government is trying to tell us, because it was the Ministry of Health which had signed the office memorandum with the IMA (Indian Medical Association) in 2017 saying it will explore the possibility of a Central Act (to protect healthcare workers from violence). Had the government not known then that health as well as law and order are State subjects? If yes, why did it sign this?

In 2019, under the same Health Minister, the three Ministries of Home, Law, and Health drafted this Bill. I was part of the committee which drafted it. A lot of consultations were held before the Bill was drafted, but the Bill did not go to the Cabinet. Why did they lead us down the garden path?

Now, the government is saying that it is not possible (to bring in legislation). During the COVID-19 pandemic, when there was large-scale violence against doctors in Hyderabad, the IMA had declared a 'white alert'. We said that we would protest by lighting candles. The next day, the Union Home Minister met with the IMA at 11 a.m. and by noon, the 'white alert' was withdrawn. At 4 p.m. the same day, the ordinance to bring amendments to the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, was produced, which was subsequently ratified by Parliament. Why was that done? So, now, suddenly, how are they all saying a Central law is not possible?

The Supreme Court has now set up a national task force to look into the issue of the safety of healthcare workers. How does the IMA view this development?

RVA: We welcome it. The Supreme Court is the one institution acceptable across party lines, religious lines, and professions. It has got so much credibility and respect and we will work with the task force. But if you go through the Supreme Court order, it is all about the safety , security, and working conditions (of healthcare workers). It does not talk about a deterrent law. What if there a violence? What will be the next step? Or are the existing laws adequate? Yes, there are 25 State laws, but where are the convictions? In my understanding, there was only one conviction last year in Tamil Nadu while there are hundreds of cases. In Kerala, since the law was made stringent following the murder of Vandana Das in 2023, the incidence of violence has come down. There were a few instances of violence where the State acted quickly. Kerala has also enacted a Code of Grey Protocol. We have asked the government to adapt this Protocol of the Kerala government too.

SR: We need a Central Act but at the same time, a Central Act should not take away the rights of the State and that of the patients. A law can help in reducing the incidence of violence against healthcare workers, but policymakers should also examine why these incidents are happening. It is the responsibility of the government to see to it that the expectations of a poor patient who comes to the hospital, of free, fair, and total health care, are met. The public health system should be strengthened and out-of-pocket expenditure should be reduced.

Why do you think the Centre went back on its earlier intent of enacting a Central law?

RVA: The government seems to have a problem acknowledging that there is violence against healthcare professionals in India. But the reality is for everybody to see. If you look at the issue of violence, corporate hospitals are much safer because of the security arrangements. It is mainly government hospitals and small and medium hospitals in the private sector which are exposed to this violence.

There is no dearth of laws in the country. Kerala framed legislation to prevent violence against healthcare workers in 2012, but it was not enough. While seeking a new law, what are the implementation challenges you expect?

RVA: The 2012 Kerala law did not have teeth. The Rules were framed later. The law was not backed by the Indian Penal Code (now called the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita) or the Code of Criminal Procedure (now called the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita). The police had no idea that such a law had come into existence. We had to show them there was indeed an Act to take cognisance of the violence against hospitals and healthcare workers. The Vandana Das murder changed things. Today, Kerala has a very strong law. At least in four or five instances of violence, after this law was framed, the police acted swiftly. So, a deterrent law which is implemented by the police on the ground and is understood by the public is very useful.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

The second-hand grief of an editor

Unlike reporters who feel the blast of a tragedy, editors face lashes of micro-grief

Sunalini Mathew

Last week, a reporter in his 20s called to talk about a story. As we spoke, he said, despondently, "As prices of everything go up, the cost of human life comes down." He had just written about the horror of nine children dying in a wall collapse in a village in Madhya Pradesh. I thought to myself that someone so young should not have to engage with so much death as a matter of course, but that is the nature of our jobs.

As I edited his story, I wondered how the parents of the children who had died, most of them situated in a single lane in that village, were coping. It wasn't just the grief of losing their own child, but also the collective loss of friends' and neighbours' children. I wasn't there, but to tell the story to readers, I had detailed conversations with the reporter, forcing him to recall everything he had seen and heard, again. The reason is that editors must know all the details, and then craft communication. We learn to temper words, measuring them out so readers know the truth, so they are disturbed enough to call for action, to hold people in the administration accountable. But we try and make sure not to trigger trauma.

A reporter can spill their guts out onto the page, trying to exorcise some of the images that embed themselves into their minds and bodies. It is sometimes left for the editor to mop up the blood, to make sure the body of words is dressed (but not dressed up), so readers can cope with their own grief.

The day before my conversation with the young reporter, there had been midnight protests across India's cities against the rape and murder of a doctor in a state-run hospital in Kolkata. I had not been able to go for them; work keeps us up most nights so the newspaper can come to your doorstep with your morning coffee. But I saw images and heard from our reporters in Kolkata that they had not been able to sleep. One of them was witness to the violence that erupted at the hospital. Unlike reporters who feel the blast of a tragedy, editors face lashes of micro-grief. But these add up.

Grief, we are told by Dr. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, in her book *On Death and Dying*, has five stages: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Most journalists can only afford time to feel anger and acceptance, both of which editors hold space for reporters to express – they have seen horrors we only look at in pictures and videos.

Editors must sometimes keep track of stories much more than reporters do. When a reporter is trying to figure out a way of getting through crumbling roads to cover a landslide that has killed many, they cannot check on what every other news organisation is reporting. This is often the job of the editor, who, seemingly coldly, will ask questions like, 'So should we say 300 people or the official 200 people (have died)?'

'The desk' as we are called, provides the anchoring in the newsroom, asking the reporter questions that readers will want to know answers to, sometimes filling in the context of what is happening on ground, sourcing 'library' information of other such events in the past.

As we prepared to edit a long-form story on the Kolkata doctor, an editor colleague and I spoke about the nuts of bolts of story structure and the use of other literary tools so we could try and ensure that the story travelled through space and time, to other places in the world, to future generations.

Second-hand grief is like second-hand smoke. The toxicity embeds itself in our bodies, shortening our sleep, forcing us into grieving, not just for victims and survivors, but also for reporters, for readers, and for the way the world is.

sunalini.mathew@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A performance to paint

A Kalamezhuthu workshop organised by the Malayalam Department at Maharaja's College, Kochi, Kerala. The art form Kalamezhuthu is an hours-long process. It involves drawing pictures on the floor with natural powders and is a performance in itself. A ritualistic tribal art that took shape in Kerala, it is traditionally performed in temples.
THULASI KAKKAT

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 23, 1974

Giri defends his public utterances on Govt.

New Delhi, Aug. 22: The retiring President, Mr. V.V. Giri, said he had not permitted Constitutional niceties to come in the way of his free functioning in public, and that was why he had given frank expression so often to views concerning the administration. "I believe in self-criticism and a ruthless exposure of faults when dealing with the affairs of the Government. A democratic Government can gain strength and vitality only by constant scrutiny, and by the genuine fear that it may be thrown out by a vigilant public opinion," Mr. Giri said, at a brief but touching farewell function organised by MPs in Parliament. These remarks were interpreted in the lobbies as an attempt by Mr. Giri to justify his recent press interview, particularly his advice to the Government on the reinstatement of railwaymen, which had caused considerable embarrassment to the Treasury Benches in Parliament.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 23, 1924

Burma Council

Rangoon, Aug 22: The ballot for 20 resolutions admitted for discussion at the forthcoming meeting of the Legislative Council was held this afternoon. They include Mr. Narayan Rao's resolution on labour conditions, Ba Glap's recommendations not to grant monopoly to any firm or individual without the consent of the Legislature and without the consent of the Legislature and Ba Thein's recommendations to abolish opium licenses fixed for 25th.

From Page One

Tripura dam didn't cause floods: MEA

"We would like to point out that the catchment areas of Gumti river that flows through India and Bangladesh have witnessed heaviest rains of this year over the last few days. The flood in Bangladesh is primarily due to waters from these large catchments downstream of the dam," the MEA statement emphasised, "The Dumbur dam is located quite far from the border – over 120 km upstream of Bangladesh. It is a low-height dam (about 30m) that generates power, which feeds into a grid and from which Bangladesh draws 40MW power from Tripura."

Through the 120 km course of the river there were three water-level observation sites at Amarpur, Sonamura and Sonamura 2 in Tripura.

Rainfall has been continuing since August 21 in the whole of Tripura and adjoining districts of Bangladesh.

"In the event of heavy inflow, automatic releases had been observed from the dam," their communique noted.

Automatic releases are a feature of dams that store water for power generation and meant to ensure that water doesn't exceed a certain level to ensure the reservoir's stability.

Doctors call off strike as SC brokers peace

Agreeing with the Bench, medical professionals who had approached the top court said they were apprehensive about hospital authorities resorting to legal actions against them once they join duty.

"First establish before us that everybody has come back to work. Once it is established that you are back to work, we will assure you that no adverse action will be taken against you... We will protect you," the Chief Justice responded.

The court directed its National Task Force (NTF) to hear out every stakeholder while framing suggestions to usher in reforms in safety measures and better infrastructural and working conditions for medical professionals. It ordered the creation of an online portal to receive suggestions even anonymously. "Thirty-six and 48-hour shifts for doctors are inhuman. How can residents work 36-hour shifts?" Chief Justice Chandrachud observed.

When doctors asked for immediate safety measures until the NTF came out with its report, the court directed the Union Health Secretary to meet with Chief Secretaries of States and Director-Generals of Police and put in place interim safety procedures. The meetings have to be held in a week.

No issues can be solved on battlefield: Modi

In a joint statement issued after the bilateral talks, the two leaders expressed their "deepest concern" over the war raging in Ukraine, including its terrible and tragic humanitarian consequences.

They reiterated the need for a "comprehensive, just, and lasting peace" in line with international law, consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, including respect for "sovereignty and territorial integrity".

"They also noted the negative impacts of the war in Ukraine with regard to global food and energy security, especially for the Global South. In the context of this war, they shared the view that the use, or threat of use, of nuclear weapons is unacceptable," the statement said.

Mr. Modi met Polish President Andrzej Duda at Belweder Palace. "The leaders reviewed bilateral ties and discussed ways to take them to newer levels. Discussions also covered regional and global issues," the MEA Spokesperson said on X. Later, he also laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The India-Poland action plan identified priority areas for cooperation, which include political dialogue and security cooperation, trade and investment, climate, energy, mining, science and technology, transport and connectivity, terrorism, cyber security, health, people-to-people ties and cultural cooperation. Addressing the Indian community on Wednesday, Mr. Modi announced the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar youth exchange programme under which every year 20 youth from Poland will be taken on a tour to India.

Cong., NC announce pre-poll tie-up in J&K

The Congress and the NC have been having seat-sharing discussions for the past few days. Both have been bargaining hard for the maximum share from the 47 seats in the Kashmir Valley, out of the 90 seats in Jammu and Kashmir.

While addressing party workers in Srinagar, Mr. Gandhi said the Congress was firm on the call for "restoration of Statehood to J&K as soon as possible".

"This is the first time since Independence that a State has become a Union Territory. We are very clear in our national manifesto as well that it is a priority for us that the people of J&K and Ladakh get their democratic rights back," he said.

The Assembly election, the first to be held in J&K after it was made a Union Territory, will be held in three phases – on September 18, September 25, and October 1.

Modi's Ukraine visit likely to explore deeper ties in defence manufacturing

India operates a large inventory of military equipment of Ukrainian origin; the Prime Minister, who will be in Kyiv at the invitation of Volodymyr Zelenskyy, will discuss partnerships in defence trade, which has been affected by the ongoing war

Dinakar Peri
KYIV

Narendra Modi and Volodymyr Zelenskyy hold a bilateral meeting during the G-7 Summit in Italy in June. FILE PHOTO

The symbolism and balancing act aside, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Ukraine on Friday, the first by an Indian Prime Minister, will focus on cooperation in defence, with India operating a large inventory of military equipment of both Russian and Ukrainian origin.

In the three years since the war in Ukraine, India has seen supplies and spares held up for some time and has attempted to diversify and reduce dependence by turning to domestic companies as well as seeking alternate vendor base in other countries.

The situation has improved since and spares, components and supplies have started coming, though not to the pre-war levels, according to official sources. Both Russia and Ukraine have assured that they would ensure timely deliveries, though earlier schedules have not been met, the sources said.

Sources said Ukraine has several cutting-edge systems and technologies many of which are battle-tested. It has expressed interest in forming joint ventures with Indian companies.

The war in Ukraine in February 2022 impacted all three services of the Indian military that have huge inventories both from Russia and Ukraine. Immediately after the war began, the Indian Army terminated several contracts related to air defence, armour and artillery as it faced escalation in prices from other countries since spares and supplies became scarce and were diverted, officials said. Further, quality claim resolutions became time consuming.

Domestic vendors

The Army turned to indigenous defence manufacturers for smaller components and sub-assemblies. This was also done by the Navy and Indian Air Force (IAF). "The Army has reached out to domestic vendors, tried to minimise imports of spares, assemblies and so on to the extent possible and diversified the vendor base where domestic options were not available to about seven to eight countries notably Poland, Estonia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic among others," a source said. The indigenous push was particularly in small components and ammunitions, officials said.

With Russia, there has been an added element of payments as Russia was shunted out of the global SWIFT system and the rupee-rouble trade couldn't cater to large payments.

The impact of such tensions is not entirely new as in the past, tensions between Russia and Ukraine had considerably delayed the modernisation of the IAF's AN-32 transport fleet. Ukraine upgraded over 100 AN-32 transport aircraft of the IAF under a deal finalised in 2009. While upgrade of 45 AN-32s in Ukraine was completed in 2015, remaining aircraft were to be upgraded by the IAF Base Repair Depot, Kanpur which got considerably delayed.

For the Indian Navy, probably the impact is as acute, if not more, as over 30 frontline warships are powered by engines from Zorya Nashproekt of Ukraine. Indian Navy drew a roadmap to achieve a certain level of servicing locally in the next few years. In addition, Zorya is tying up with an Indian company to carry out certain level of engine maintenance reducing the need to ship engines to Ukraine, sources stated.

Defence trade between India and Ukraine continued till just before 2022. For instance, after the Balakot air strike in 2019, the IAF made emergency procurement of R-27 air to air missiles for its SU-30MKI fighters. At Aero India in February 2021, Ukraine signed four agreements worth $70 million which includes sale of new weapons and maintenance and upgrades of existing ones in service with the Indian military, as reported by *The Hindu* earlier.

Doctors at govt. hospitals in Delhi end 11-day strike

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) on Thursday decided to end its 11-day strike following "positive directions" from the Supreme Court. The court earlier in the day asked protesting doctors to resume work and assured them that no adverse action would be taken after they rejoin.

"We welcome the acceptance of our prayers for interim protections and the necessary steps to enhance security in hospitals. United, we will continue to fight legally," FAIMA said in a post on X.

Resident Doctors' Associations (RDAs) of AIIMS-Delhi, RML Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College and the Delhi government-run Indira Gandhi Hospital also called off the strike.

The AIIMS RDA said the doctors would continue their struggle through "symbolic protest after duty hours till justice is served and safety guidelines are implemented". They commended the formation of a task force to ensure that their concerns are addressed promptly.

(With PTI inputs)

Centre reviews ground rules with Manipur's Kuki-Zo insurgent groups

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Keeping a check: Army and Border Security Force (BSF) personnel dismantle Kuki militants' bunkers in the Bunglon area of Manipur. @NBIRENSINGH/X

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs is reviewing the ground rules applicable to the Kuki-Zo insurgent groups in Manipur, which are in a Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement with the government since 2008. One of the measures proposed by the Union government is removal of SoO camps from locations close to the valley districts which are dominated by the Meitei people.

The camps are proposed to be relocated further inside the hills, said a source.

The issue was also discussed on June 17 when Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the security situation in Manipur with State government officials without Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. Meitei groups have been demanding the removal of the camps.

Mr. Singh has called for the abrogation of the tripartite pact, extended periodically in the past two decades. On February 29, the Manipur government refused to send a representative to a meeting called by Ministry to extend the SoO pact with Kuki-Zo insurgent groups, leaving the agreement in a limbo.

Since August 19, three rounds of meetings have been held between three members of the Kuki-Zo insurgent groups and A.K. Mishra, Adviser (North-east), the Ministry and Intelligence Bureau officials to discuss and review the ground rules.

After a peace pact is signed with an insurgent group, the cadres are to stay in earmarked camps and weapons and ammunitions are accounted for and regular checks are conducted by a monitoring agency decided by the State government.

According to an estimate, around 2,200 cadres of the SoO groups live in 14 designated camps in the hill districts of Manipur.

Ethnic violence between the Kuki-Zo and the Meitei people erupted in Manipur on May 3, 2023 after a tribal solidarity march to protest a court order turned violent in Churachandpur, a hill district. At least 224 people have been killed and more than 60,000 people displaced from their homes in the past 15 months.

In the days before the violence broke in the State, the SoO groups United Peoples' Front (UPF) and the Kuki National Organisation (KNO), had reached a political settlement with the Ministry to end the decades-old issue. The groups had agreed for a self-governance model in the form of a Territorial Council for the Kuki-Zo in the State of Manipur after several rounds of negotiations. Post-violence, they revised their demand to "separate administration" for the Kuki-Zo people.

Mamata writes to PM for stringent Central law on sexual assault

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Mamata Banerjee

As the Central Bureau of Investigation approached a court in Kolkata seeking permission to conduct polygraph tests on Sandip Kumar Ghosh, former principal of the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, and four other doctors, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi calling for a stringent Central legislation with "exemplary punishment" for perpetrators of sexual assault.

In her letter, Ms. Banerjee highlighted the "regular and increasing" incidents of sexual assault across the country. Citing available data, she pointed out that "more than 90 cases are occurring every day", which, according to her, were shaking the confidence and conscience of the society and the nation.

She emphasised that "such serious and sensitive issues need to be addressed in a comprehensive manner" and suggested setting up of "fast-track special courts for speedy trials" of such cases. "The trial in such cases should preferably be completed in 15 days," she wrote.

The CBI sought permission from a court to conduct polygraph tests on Dr. Ghosh and four other doctors. A polygraph test is also likely to be done on the accused Sanjoy Roy. While Mr. Roy, a civic police volunteer, who was arrested by the Kolkata Police on August 10, is in CBI custody, the former principal has been questioned by the agency over the past several days.

Violence at BJP rally

In Kolkata, clashes broke out outside Swastha Bhawan, the headquarters of State Health Department, when a rally by the BJP turned violent.

The BJP has been demanding the resignation of Ms. Banerjee. BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari said that only five persons wanted to meet the State Health Secretary but the meeting was denied on the instructions of the Chief Minister, who holds the health portfolio. The BJP and other political and social groups have called for a march to Nabanna, the State Secretariat, on August 27.

The State government has moved the Calcutta High Court against the rally. The court will hear the petition on Friday.

In a related development, two companies of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) have been deployed on the R.G. Kar premises following directions of the Supreme Court. About 170 CISF personnel will guard the hospital that was ransacked by a mob on August 15.

Three arrested for trying to set fire to school bus in Bihar

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

The Bihar Police on Thursday arrested three persons and booked 300 unknown persons in connection with the incident involving a school bus in Gopalganj district where the vehicle got stuck during Bharat Bandh and agitating protesters allegedly tried to set it on fire.

All three arrested persons belong to the Scheduled Castes (SC).

During the protest on Wednesday against the Supreme Court's decision on sub-classification, the agitated members had allegedly tried to set the bus aflame with students and teachers on board near Arari Mor in the district. However, the police ensured no major incident occurred.

"Through video footage of the incident, we have identified five persons and lodged an FIR against them along with about 300 unidentified persons involved in protest at the place. We have already arrested three persons and will arrest others as and when their identity is revealed," said Gopalganj town police in-charge Omprakash Chauhan.

"The FIR has been lodged under Sections 126 (2), 127(2), 191(2), 190, 115 (2), 109, 132, 352 and 3(5) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)," the official said.

Among the five identified persons, three have already been arrested, while the two others are absconding, said the official.

In Patna, the police had to resort to mild baton charge on protesters to disperse them from the capital's main Dak Bungalow Chouraha (thoroughfare). During the baton charge, with water canons being used, a policeman accidentally hit a Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) deputed at the place.

Union Minister Chirag Paswan said on X: "This is our responsibility to become a voice for the rights of people from the disadvantaged classes."

SC refuses to grant relief to activist in Elgar case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday did not grant any immediate interim relief to activist Jyoti Jagtap, who is in jail in connection with the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case. A Bench headed by Justice M.M. Sundreah said Ms. Jagtap's petitions for bail would be considered with other similar pleas by her co-accused who have been chargesheeted in the same case.

Her lawyers said she has been behind bars for about four years now. The court should consider that she is a woman, they said.

APPEAL

Ms.Kowsalya.K daughter of N.Kasi 23 years admitted in **Christian Medical College** is diagnosed to have Moderate Mitral Stenosis, Ositum Secundum Atrial Septal defect and normal LV Function. She has been advised to undergo Mitral Valve Replacement + Atrial Septal Defect Closure at the earliest. The cost of the operation would be about **Rs. 3,70,000**/-.

Please send donation however small and save the girl. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Kowsalya.K **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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Opposition members raise an array of objections to Waqf Amendment Bill

Parties rally against interference by govt., inclusion of non-Muslim members in Waqf Boards, and role of the Collector as primary authority in determining whether a property is classified as Waqf or govt. land; BJP ally TDP says it will make suggestions during the clause-by-clause discussion

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Parliament's Joint Committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill began consultations on Thursday, with many members describing the mood of the meeting as "combative".

Opposition members rallied against many provisions in the Bill, including "excessive interference" from government, "inclusion of non-Muslim members", and the move to ask for "deed records" for Waqf properties.

The BJP's former ally, the YSR Congress, came out strongly against the amendments. The BJP's NDA partners took a middle path, backing reform and addressing concerns.

The Joint Committee has to deliver its report before the beginning of the Winter Session, which is likely to be scheduled in the last week of November.

Minority Affairs Ministry officials made a detailed presentation and elaborated the various provisions of the Bill. Representatives from the Ministry of Law and Justice were also present to provide a legal perspective.

Discussions on: Members of the Joint Committee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill during the first meeting at Parliament House Annexe in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

Vocal critics

There was near unanimity among the Opposition parties on amending the clause that designates the District Collector as the primary authority in determining whether a property is classified as Waqf or government land. The Congress, the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, the Trinamool Congress, and other Opposition parties all wanted the clause to be removed. There was also a huge uproar over the clause that allowed for inclusion of non-Muslim members in Waqf Boards.

AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi, according to sources, was one of the most vocal critics, pointing out during the meeting that the government did not carry out any consultations before drafting the Bill. Though the government claims that it has taken into account the Sachar Committee report, he reportedly argued that the government has "cherry-picked" the recommendations. For instance, the report had recommended "broad basing" the membership of the Waqf Boards.

This has been used to justify the inclusion of non-Muslim members in the Boards and to remove the mandatory requirement of Muslim membership generally. This, he said, was a misinterpretation of the commission's recommendation, which had called for "broad-basing" within the community.

Samajwadi Party MP from Rampur Mohibbullah protested against the requirement for the submission of a "property deed" while filing details of Waqf properties on the portal. He reportedly argued that if "customs and usage" can be the basis of recognising temples, why is the expectation different for Waqf properties.

Senior YSR Congress leader Vijay Sai Reddy represented his party in the panel. Apart from the objections raised by the other Opposition parties, Mr. Reddy also argued against allowing sub-sects such as "Aghakhani" and "Bohra" Muslims to have a Waqf Board, noting that this was a very divisive move.

National Democratic Alliance partner, the Telugu Desam Party, meanwhile, took the middle path. The party was represented by Lok Sabha floor leader Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu who, according to sources, said during the meeting that the law should be strengthened while addressing everyone's apprehensions. His party will make suggestions, he said, when the committee discusses the law clause by clause.

Ahead of the meeting, the panel's Chairperson Jagdambika Pal told the media that the committee would hear the voices of different stakeholders. "We will discuss all the 44 amendments and bring a good and comprehensive Bill by next session," he said.

INBRIEF

Rahul recalls old bond with Kashmir, dines out in Srinagar

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday interacted with local people in Srinagar and had food at a restaurant there. Referring to his ancestors who belonged to Kashmir, Mr. Gandhi said, "I have an old bond with Kashmir. I have a blood relation with Kashmir." "My message to the people of J&K is, we can help you, the Congress party is always there. We understand that you're going through a very difficult period, a tough period, and we want to end violence."

Shyam Rajak quits RJD, likely to rejoin JD(U)

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) national general secretary Shyam Rajak resigned from the party on Thursday. Mr. Rajak, who was earlier with the Janata Dal (U), sent the resignation letter to RJD chief Lalu Prasad and claimed that he had been "cheated". He is likely to rejoin the JD(U). Party insiders said that before tendering his resignation, he spoke to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Asked about his resignation, he said, "Every politician wants to contest elections. On several occasions, I was denied and refused by the party."

Assam govt. tables Bill to repeal Muslim marriage law

The Assam government on Thursday introduced a Bill to repeal an 89-year-old law on the registration of Muslim marriages and divorces, stating that it has a "scope of misuse" to allow child marriage. Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Jogen Mohan tabled The Assam Repealing Bill, 2024, in the 126-member House to abolish The Assam Moslem Marriages and Divorces Registration Act of 1935. It was introduced a day after the State Cabinet approved the draft law regulating the registration of Muslim marriages.

EC to deploy over 400 observers for J&K, Haryana Assembly elections

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Thursday said it would deploy over 400 observers for the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana. It asked the observers to stay vigilant against false narratives and be accessible to all political parties and voters.

Around 200 general observers, 100 police observers, and 100 expenditure observers are being deployed in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir. These include officers drawn from the IAS, IPS, IRS, and other Central Services.

The poll body deploys observers under Section 20B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and plenary powers of the Constitution.

Rajiv Kumar

At a day-long meeting with the observers here on Thursday, the Election Commission, led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, advised them to overcome language barriers and ensure that there are no gaps in communication and advised them to be accessible to all parties and voters.

While noting that the Assembly elections are keenly contested, Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar emphasised that the officials should observe the complete election ecosystem for free and fair polls and asserted that the role of observers becomes more critical in these elections.

'Remain accessible'

The observers were strictly directed to remain accessible to all political parties, candidates and voters for timely redressal of their grievances, the EC said in a statement, adding that any complaints in this regard will be viewed seriously by the poll body.

The EC officials said that special summary revision of photo electoral rolls with qualifying date July 1 has been successfully completed in all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The Union Territory has seen an addition of 93,000 new voters and the number of polling stations has also gone up by 209.

The number of young voters in the 18-19 age group has increased by 45,964, with 24,310 of them being women.

The final electoral rolls for Haryana will be published on August 27.

'Opposition doing injustice to OBCs'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav on Thursday accused the Opposition parties of doing injustice to the Other Backward Classes on the issue of reservation.

"The OBC vote and OBC counting are matters of politics for them. The biggest example of this is seen in the affidavit given by the West Bengal government to the Supreme Court. The Chairman of the OBC Commission informed that 77 castes have been included in the OBC list in West Bengal, in which 75 castes are from the Muslim community," he said.

Modi to meet unions of government employees

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

For the first time in 10 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet the staff representatives in the national-level Joint Consultative Mechanism of the Union government employees and the Personnel Ministry.

The Personnel Ministry has sent an invitation to JCM secretary Shiv Gopal Mishra and other members of the staff side of the JCM to meet Mr. Modi on Saturday. The issue of restoring the old pension scheme is likely to come up in the meeting.

Mr. Mishra told *The Hindu* that the staff representatives had sought an audience with Mr. Modi. "We are in touch with the government on several issues. We wanted to meet the Prime Minister too on our issues," he said, adding that restoration of the old pension scheme is an important issue that is not resolved yet.

The unions of Centre and Central PSU employees had earlier decided to go on an indefinite strike from May 1. It was deferred following discussions with the government.

Centre will set up facilities for media creators: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre is working on establishing world-class facilities in India to enhance the capabilities of creators in the media and entertainment sector, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday.

Speaking at the launch of 25 "challenges" as part of the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES), Mr. Vaishnaw said the event reflected India's new creators' economy, which was also recognised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the first-ever National Creators Award ceremony in March.

Effective tool

Highlighting its immense potential, the Minister said that the creators' economy had become an effective tool to showcase the country's rich cultural heritage, way of life, yoga, traditional medicine system, and diverse cuisines. The Centre is taking all possible steps to encourage this ecosystem, he said.

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Tender Call Notice No. H.O./P&C/EST-E-2325/01/2023/ 24726 Dated :- 20.08.2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Value of Work (Approx.)	Period of Completion
1.	Construction of proposed intake well & allied facilities on the bank of river Sankha for water supply to Kalunga I.E., Rourkela , Sundergarh.	₹ 7.35 Cr.	09 (Nine) Calendar Months

I. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar-751022.	Bid ID.No. P&C/EST/ E-23/2024-25	17.00 Hours of dt. 27.08.2024	17.00 Hours of dt. 12.09.2024

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in . Corrigendum or addendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal www.tenderodisha.gov.in as well as IDCO website www.idco.in.
CAD-896: Sd/-Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-14003/11/0049/2425

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(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600,),
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616
No.KMSCL/ED/53/2023 Date : 22.08.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers / loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of Insecticides for NVBDCP & Plan Scheme for the year 2023-2024 & 2024 - 2025.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	Category
1.	KMSCL/ED/INS-NVBDCP&PLAN/RC/2024/017 dtd. 22/08/2024	Insecticide

Last date and time of online uploading of tender - 04.09.2024, 5.00 pm.
Date and time of opening of Technical bid - 07.09.2024 11.30 am.
Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.
(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR- 751002.
Tel-MD 0674- 2340573, E-mail - mdosscltd456@gmail.com
NIT No.OSSC/Mktg(Hort) - 108/2024

Short e-Tender Call Notice for Procurement of Certified Chilli Seed for Rabi - 2024-25

OSSC Ltd. invites short c-Tender only from Producers (and in case of GOI PSUs, their authorized Agencies) on item wise rate contract basis **for Procurement of Certified Chilli Seed for Rabi-2024-25** in double cover system through online mode only for the work below.

Name of the work	Purchase of Certified Chilli Seed for Rabi - 2024-25.
No of work	One
Availability of Bid documents in Portal	15.00 hours on dt.23.08.2024 to 17.00 hrs of dt.29.08.2024
Last date of receipt of tender in portal	17.00 hrs of dt.29.08.2024
Date and Time of Opening of Bid	10.30 hrs of dt.30.08.2024

The detailed descriptions of crops, varieties, quantity, parameters, terms and conditions and other details of tender specified in the tender schedule would be made available in the e-Tender portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation can also be seen in the said website.
CAD-899 : Sd/- Managing Director, OSSC Ltd.
OIPR-01106/11/0023/2425

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/42 -2024-25

The due Date and Time of submission and opening of following SRM e-tender is extended as follows:

Tender No. & Description of Item	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) / Tender fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0518/0824 [RFX No. 5000001272] [3rd Call] (Two Bid System) Procurement of 400kV, 125MVAr, 3-Φ Bus Reactor along with Surge Arrestor and New Uninhibited Naphthenic Based High Grade Mineral Insulating Oil for Pune Nagpur and Karad Zone. 2nd Call vide SP/T-0517/0724 (RFx 5000001262) 1st Call vide SP/T-0509/0324 (RFx 5000001209)	Rs. 3773.09 lakhs Rs. 25000.00 (excluding taxes)	04.09.2024 Up to 16:00 Hrs. 04.09.2024 at 16:15 Hrs.
Pre-bid meeting Date, Time & Venue	**Date:** 23.08.2024 **Time:** 14:30 Hrs. **Venue:** Office of The Chief Engineer, Tr. O&M Section, 4th Floor, MSETCL C.O. 'Prakashganga' Plot No. C-19, E-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400051.	

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C)
Tel. No.022- 69852717/ Cell no:-8329909813
Email: eegrp5@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in. So bidders are requested to check the website.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR- 751002.
Tel-MD 0674- 2340573, E-mail - mdosscltd456@gmail.com
NIT No.OSSC/Mktg(Hort) - 111/2024

Short e-Tender Call Notice for Procurement of Certified Fenugreek Seed for Rabi - 2024-25

OSSC Ltd. invites short e-Tender only from Producers (and in case of GOI PSUs, their authorized Agencies) on item wise rate contract basis **for Procurement of Certified Fenugreek Seed for Rabi-2024-25** in double cover system through online mode only for the work below.

Name of the work	Purchase of Certified Fenugreek Seed for Rabi - 2024-25.
No of work	One
Availability of Bid documents in Portal	15.00 hours on dt.23.08.2024 to 17.00 hrs of dt.29.08.2024
Last date of receipt of tender in portal	17.00 hrs of dt.29.08.2024
Date and Time of Opening of Bid	10.30 hrs of dt.30.08.2024

The detailed descriptions of crops, varieties, quantity, parameters, terms and conditions and other details of tender specified in the tender schedule would be made available in the e-Tender portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation can also be seen in the said website.
CAD-902 : Sd/- Managing Director, OSSC Ltd.
OIPR-01106/11/0026/2425

INBRIEF

Centre releases new norms for seaplane operations

The Civil Aviation Ministry on Thursday released new rules for seaplanes, allowing non-scheduled operators to provide such services. The rules have also been simplified with an aim to encourage seaplane operations under the regional air connectivity scheme UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik), which has so far seen poor response. Under the relaxed norms of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), there will be no need for a waterdrome licence, and compliance requirements have also been reduced. Pilots with a commercial pilot licence (CPL) can now qualify as seaplane-rated pilots.

TISS Registrar asks for his own order to be reversed

A day after the Registrar of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Anil Sutar, had declared himself the head of administration in a self-signed order, he sent an internal communication to Vice-Chancellor Manoj Kumar Tiwari, asking for the order to be reversed. In the communication to the V-C, Mr. Sutar said, "I request your office to issue a fresh order appointing Mr. Narendra Mishra as the officiating Registrar of TISS. I also pray you that I should not be appointed as the Head of Administration. I will just focus on research and academics and will discharge my duties as Professor and Dean, School of Research Methodology and Doctoral Students' Office. Sir, Please ensure that my earlier order is withdrawn and a modified order is issued by your office."

NDMA to monitor 189 high-risk glacial lakes to prevent disasters

Lake-lowering measures among proposed steps; National Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Mitigation Programme was approved on July 25

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

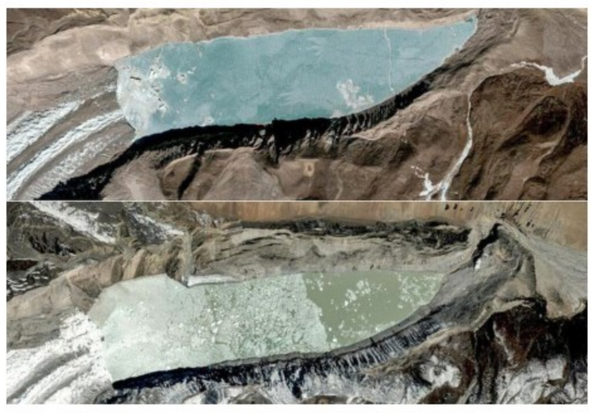
Following disasters inflicted by overflowing glacial lakes in the Himalayas, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has finalised a list of 189 "high-risk" glacial lakes for mitigation measures to reduce the risk emanating from them.

Some of the proposed steps include constituting teams to investigate these lakes and attempt "lake-lowering measures", which are done to buffer against any overflow, and mitigating potential damage in downstream States.

Last October, the South Lhonak Lake in Sikkim, a glacier-formed lake, overflowed and inundated several parts of the Northeastern State killing at least 40 people and destroying the Chungthang dam.

The National Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Mitigation Programme was approved by the Centre on July 25.

There are nearly 7,500 glacial lakes in the Himalayan mountain ranges located in India and some of them are being monitored through remote sensing. However, fully assessing their impact is only possible with site visits, which is difficult owing to inhospitable terrain. There are only a few months in a year – July to September – when expeditions can be mounted to access them.



Satellite views of Lhonak Lake before (top) and after it burst its banks on October 3, 2023. MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES

This week, for instance, the Arunachal Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority has sent two teams to six high-risk glacial lakes in the Tawang and Dibang Valley districts to study them. The Central Water Commission in an October 2023 report stated that 902 glacial lakes and waterbodies are being monitored via satellite.

The programme aims at detailed technical hazard assessments, installing automated weather and water level monitoring stations, and early warning systems at the lakes and in downstream areas.

So far, 15 expeditions have been conducted, including six in Sikkim, six in Ladakh, one in Himachal Pradesh and two in Jammu and Kashmir.

Centre, States discuss new mechanism for gathering crop data

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the nationwide implementation of the Digital General Crop Estimation Survey (DGCES), the Centre convened a national conference with the States to discuss the improvement in crop production statistics here on Thursday.

The new initiative, according to the Centre, aims at enhancing accuracy, reliability, and transparency of agricultural statistics, which will help in policy formulation, trade decisions, and agricultural planning.

Union Agriculture Secretary Devesh Chaturvedi said there is a need for continuous collaboration between the Union and State governments to achieve the shared goal of enhancing the quality of agricultural statistics. "The primary focus of the conference was on the enhancement of agricultural production estimates and the integration of technology to strengthen data accuracy," the Centre said.

The Centre had announced in the Budget the move to hold a digital crop survey and said that it will help in accurate crop-area estimation. "It will provide plot-level data with geo-tagged areas of crops and act as a single source of truth," the Agriculture Ministry said.

DGCES will be used to calculate yield based on scientific crop cutting experiments.

"DGCES has been initiated to calculate yield based on scientifically designed crop cutting experiments for all major crops across the country. These initiatives are expected to provide near real-time and reliable data directly from the field," the Ministry added.

The conference discussed the need for integrating cutting-edge technologies like remote sensing, geospatial analysis, and artificial intelligence in generating crop production statistics through revamped FASAL (Forecasting Agricultural output using Space, Agrometeorology, and Land-based observations).

Will form panel to solve problems of farmers: SC

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it would soon constitute a multi-member committee to amicably resolve the grievances of farmers "for all times".

A Bench of Justice Surya Kant, Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, which posted the matter for further hearing on September 2, asked the Punjab and Haryana governments to give tentative issues concerning farmers to the committee. The Bench asked the Punjab and Haryana governments to keep engaging with protesting farmers and persuade them to remove their tractors and trollies from the highway.

The Punjab government informed the top court that in compliance with its order, they held a meeting with the protesting farmers in which they had agreed to partially open the blocked highway.

The court was hearing the Haryana government's plea challenging the high court's order asking it to remove within a week the barricades erected at the Shambhu border near Ambala where protesting farmers have been camping since February 13.

12 killed as rain, landslips wreak havoc in Tripura

Syed Sajjad Ali
AGARTALA

At least 12 people have died and two are missing in Tripura following flash floods and landslips due to torrential rain over the past few days.

The State government has opened nearly 450 relief camps where 65,400 people have taken shelter.

The Indian Air Force deployed two Mi-17 helicopters on Thursday to evacuate people stranded in the flood-affected areas. Eleven National Disaster Response Force teams, 26 SDRF units, and emergency service teams are engaged in relief and rescue operations.

While landslips occurred at 2,032 locations, 1,789 of these have been cleared and restoration work is under way.

NDRF members evacuate people from a flood-affected area in Adhaynagar village on the outskirts of Agartala on Thursday. PTI

The water level of rivers is above the danger mark in Dhalai, Khowai, South Tripura, West Tripura, North Tripura and Unakoti districts.

More rain on Friday

The India Meteorological Department has forecasted more rain for Friday.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha and assured him of all support.

State officials have reported extensive crop damage, particularly to early and late kharif crops in all eight districts of the State. Preliminary estimates suggest that around 5,000 hectares of vegetable crops and 1.2 lakh hectares of paddy have been submerged.

20 arrested, house of accused demolished in M.P. for mob attack

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

The Chhatarpur District Administration in Madhya Pradesh on Thursday demolished the house of a prime accused along with a few others, a day after four police personnel were injured in a mob attack at a police station as protesters turned violent while demanding action against a religious leader for allegedly using derogatory remarks against Prophet Muhammed in Maharashtra.

The police also raided more than 100 locations and detained over 50 suspects, Superintendent of Police, City, Aman Mishra told *The Hindu*. Twenty of the detained persons have been arrested.

The person whose house was razed has been identified as Haji Shehzad Ali. He allegedly led the protests.

The house of the prime accused being demolished on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On Wednesday evening, more than 500 protesters gathered outside the Kotwali police station, demanding to lodge an FIR against Ramgiri Maharaj for allegedly using derogatory remarks against the Prophet and Islam during an event in Nashik last week. The protesters turned violent after they were barred from entering the station.

'Al-Qaeda-inspired' terror network busted; 14 held

Samridhi Tewari
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Thursday said they busted an "al-Qaeda-inspired" terror network that was active in the States of Rajasthan, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh, and detained 14 suspects in the case.

In a statement, the Delhi Police said the "intelligence-based operation" was coordinated and conducted by its Special Cell in association with police forces of the three States.

"The module was led by Dr. Ishtiyaq, a resident of Ranchi in Jharkhand. He was aspiring to declare *Khilafat* [Caliphate] and execute serious terrorist activities within the country," it further said.

A senior police officer said the suspects were indoctrinated and trained at various locations to use weapons. "The police are interrogating all detainees at various locations and additional arrests are likely," the officer added.

According to the police, six individuals were detained from Bhiwadi, Rajasthan while undergoing "weapon-handling" training, and eight were detained from Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh for further questioning.

The police also claimed to have recovered arms, ammunition, documents, and literature from several locations, with further seizures under way. Fifteen locations in Ranchi, and one each in Rajasthan and Aligarh were searched, the police added.

Jharkhand Police Spokesperson, Inspector-General (Operation) Amol V. Homkar, in a press conference said several persons suspected of involvement in terrorist activities were detained in coordination with Central agencies, and based on intelligence inputs.

In Jharkhand, 16 searches took place on Thursday across three districts – Ranchi, Hazirabagh and Lohardarga. The searches were carried out by the Jharkhand Anti-Terror Squad, the Jharkhand Special Task Force, the Ranchi Police and the Special Cell of Delhi Police.

"All eight suspects are being interrogated for further information, based on which more locations will be searched and more persons detained," he said.

The Jharkhand Police also claimed to have seized illegal weapons, laptops, mobile phones and other incriminating documents.

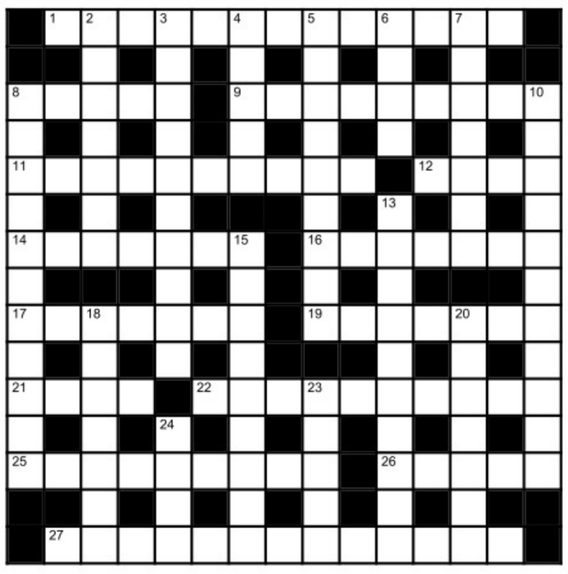
"Once all information is in place, legal action will be taken," the officer said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14261

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Magnanimous character embraces rebellious fool to resolve differences (4,3,4,2)
8 Starts to make extremely tasty rolls outside subway (5)
9 Silly bimbo acts pompous (9)
11 What chef might do to cause trouble deliberately (4,3,3)
12 Indisposed after starting to puke, getting tablet (4)
14 Scientist set up academy to work on germs essentially (7)
16 Intoxicated Tories start to roar and celebrate (7)
17 Old man starting to buy playthings to entertain boisterous girls (7)
19 Outrageous in macho hairstyle (7)
21 Failure in exam is stressful (4)
22 Popular girl in cheerful group (10)
25 Craftily lies a bit about one's skills (9)
26 Reviewed agreement to have director put on board (5)
27 Excited, feels gal will accept ring hopefully (2,3,4,4)

Down

2 Perceives irritating tinnitus - needs ENT essentially (7)
3 Harry Potter's primarily hoping to prevent further damage (4,3,3)
4 Fine, new flat-bottomed boat leaving Cuba (5)
5 Maiden primarily meets doctor in Indian city with money for medical test (9)
6 Sleep after end of trek to crest of hill (4)
7 Disentangle from area, leaving SWAT unit flummoxed (7)
8 Some discovered bowl with a revolutionary design in historical region (11)
10 Children at old complex like the swimming pools (11)
13 Intoxicated lad now tottering all over the place (4,3,3)
15 Refreshing vacation with old gang (9)
18 Upset about a street dog (7)
20 Catholic leader's analysis of a system of beliefs (7)
23 Bit tense, worried about son (5)
24 Revolting boy stealing one's phone (4)

SUDOKU

		3	2	1		5		9
							8	
				8	4	1		
	9					7	1	6
		7				9		
6	4	2					5	
		8	1	3				
	6							
3		9		6	8	2		

No.SS6259 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

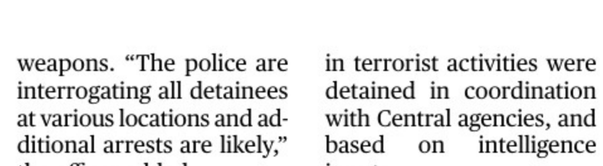
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Y	O	U	N	G	E	S	T		E	F	F	O	R	T
E		N		O		L		M		E		U		O
A	D	I	E	U		E	M	E	N	D	A	T	E	D
R		N		N		U		S		U		E		O
L	A	S	T	D	I	T	C	H		P	E	R	I	L
Y		T		E		H		E		T				I
	M	A	D	R	A	S		S	C	O	N	C	E	S
O		L		T						T		A		T
B	O	L	S	H	I	E		A	T	H	O	M	E	
S				E		O		R		E		P		D
T	H	A	N	K		N	I	G	H	T	M	A	R	E
A		C		N		I		O		E		N		A
C	A	R	R	I	E	S	O	N		E	X	I	S	T
L		I		F		M		N		T		L		H
E	N	D	U	E	S		B	E	S	H	R	E	W	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	5	2	8	3	7	4	1	6
1	6	4	9	5	2	7	3	8
8	7	3	1	4	6	9	2	5
6	4	8	5	7	1	3	9	2
7	2	5	6	9	3	1	8	4
3	9	1	4	2	8	5	6	7
4	3	6	2	1	5	8	7	9
2	1	9	7	8	4	6	5	3
5	8	7	3	6	9	2	4	1



FAITH

Glory of Divya Prabandam

Thirukkudandhai Sri Venkatesh highlighted the glory of Divya Prabandam in a discourse. He cited five reasons. Divya Prabandam is considered the quintessence of the Vedas (*Dravida Veda sagaram*). Acharya Sri Vedantha Desika says that the purport of the Vedas, which we cannot easily understand, can be discerned with Divya Prabandam. When people of other languages also transliterate and recite, rendering and understanding the meaning is more accessible for those whose mother tongue is Tamil.

Scriptures say the worship of the Lord is in five forms. Para refers to the Lord in Sri Vaikunta. People can worship only after reaching Sri Vaikunta. Vyuha refers to the Lord residing in the Milky Ocean. Only celestials and maharshis can go there. Vibhava denotes His manifestation as Sri Rama and Sri Krishna. We were not fortunate enough to have been born during that time. Antaryami – God resides in the heart of every one of us. He can be realised through deep devotion. It may not be possible for ordinary people to exercise the same.

Archa – worship of God in temples and houses is called the archa form. It is the easiest way of deriving His blessings. The divine power of God is the same in all temples and homes. Divya Prabandam helps us worship the omnipotent God.

INBRIEF

TVS Motor unveils Jupiter 110 at ₹73,700, begins deliveries

TVS Motor Company on Thursday unveiled the all new Jupiter 110 at a starting price of ₹73,700 (ex-showroom Delhi), and commenced deliveries. The scooter comes equipped with a next-gen engine and futuristic 15 first-in-segment features, and promises 7%-10% better fuel efficiency compared with other models in this category, the company said. Jupiter 110 is powered by a 113.3 cc, single cylinder, four-stroke engine and is available in four variants.

Funskool to make, distribute Catan board game in India

MRF's Funskool India Ltd. announced it had acquired the rights from Asmodee to manufacture and distribute Catan, a globally popular board game, in India. The domestically-made Catan game would be offered at a special price of ₹3,499 in India, the leading toy manufacturer said in a statement. "Catan is a great option for all above 10 years, as it stimulates strategic thinking and decision making," said Funskool India's CEO R. Jeswant.

Rockwool Group plans to invest ₹550 cr. in Cheyyar unit

Denmark-based Rockwool Group is constructing a new factory in Cheyyar at an investment of ₹550 crore to meet the increasing demand for non-combustible stone wool insulation and to expand presence in the fast-growing South Asian market, said Chairman Thomas Kahler. "This is our second factory in India after Dahej, Gujarat. When commissioned, it will have a production capacity of 50,000 tonnes against 40,000 tonnes in Dahej," Mr. Kahler said at a press meet.

Shift in inflation goal can trip economic prospects: Patra

Wedge between headline and food inflation has been widening and stalling alignment of former with the target, says RBI Deputy Governor; 'food inflation taking longer to revert after a shock'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) steadfast approach to align inflation durably with the 4% target guided its decision to hold policy rates, minutes of the MPC meeting released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday showed.

"The wedge between headline and food inflation has been widening and stalling the alignment of the former with the target," Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra said.

Food for thought

Premature to consider natural interest rate equilibrium when durable disinflation to target 4% is work in progress: RBI's Das

- 'MPC's steadfast path to align inflation durably with 4% target led to hold'
- 'Empirical evidence points to rise in time-varying food inflation persistence'
- 'Justification for policy easing based on high real rates can be misleading'

"Taking into account double-digit inflation in salient food categories such as cereals, pulses, spices and vegetables for several months, empirical evidence points to a rise in the time-varying persistence of food inflation, i.e., it is taking longer to revert to its trend after a shock."

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said inflation was gradually slowing but the pace was slow, uneven.

"When durable disinflation to the target is still a work in progress, the issue of equilibrium natural interest rate is premature.

"Policy-making in the real world cannot be based on an abstract, theoretical and model-specific construct that is unobservable and time-varying. Hence, any justification for policy easing based on so-called high real rates can be misleading," he emphasised.

Want FDI, but follow law of the land: Goyal to e-tailers

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

A day after he had lashed out at e-commerce platforms such as Amazon by red-flagging predatory pricing policies and possible violations of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) norms, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday sought to dial down the temperature by asserting that he was not against e-commerce *per se* but only wanted players to ensure fair play and honesty in their business practices.

Speaking at Mumbai's Atharva College, the minister noted the government was keen to invite FDI and technology that brings the "best of the world" to Indian citizens. He also avoided mention of any e-commerce player by name.

"I want to reiterate... online has tremendous benefits. We recognise that, but if there is a law of the land that FDI is allowed in online services only when you do business-to-business, it's a well thought of strategy. The idea is that our small retailers also can survive and coexist with online services, and unfair competition doesn't kill them," he said, repeating concerns about the impact of e-commerce on an estimated 100 million small retailers across the country.

"What the country only desires, is fair play and honesty for the customer and the supplier of goods and services, and to ensure... a fair chance to compete," he remarked.

'Better reservoir levels may curb food inflation'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Despite a somewhat erratic monsoon, India's reservoirs have been replenished, which bodes well for the current kharif and upcoming rabi farm output, which in turn should help curb food inflation further in the coming months, the Finance Ministry said on Thursday, even as it noted waning confidence levels among consumers and industries.

Stressing that real GDP growth projection of 6.5%-7% for this year still holds, the Ministry in its monthly economic review for July said inflation was moderating, while the rise in exports and imports in the first four months of this fiscal suggests a trend reversal was underway with global demand recovering.

The review stressed that consumer confidence and industrial outlook surveys conducted by the central bank "need to be monitored for future trends."

Flash PMI signals slight dip in private sector activity this month

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Private sector activity levels likely eased for the second successive month this August, with new factory orders rising at the slowest pace since February and goods prices being raised at the highest rate in 11 years, as per initial indicators from a private survey of purchasing managers.

The HSBC Flash India Composite* Output Index, a seasonally adjusted index that measures the month-on-month change in the combined output of India's manufacturing and service sectors - stood at 60.5 in August, easing from 60.7 in July.

A reading of over 50 on the survey-based Purchasing Managers' index (PMI), conducted by S&P Global among 400 firms from the manufacturing and services sectors, indicates an uptick in activity levels. The Flash PMI scores for an ongoing month are based on responses from about 75% to 85% of those 800 firms surveyed for the PMI.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,053	0.18
US Dollar	83.93	-0.03
Gold	74,150	0.00
Brent oil	77.60	1.51

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3099.05	-16.65
Adani Ports	1492.30	-11.20
Apollo Hosp	6830.55	78.10
Asian Paints	3186.60	35.05
Axis Bank	1169.95	-4.45
Bajaj Auto	9914.20	62.20
Bajaj Finserv	1625.70	4.75
Bajaj Finance	6743.60	8.25
Bharti Airtel	1486.35	22.90
BPCL	350.10	-1.10
Britannia Ind	5836.80	-0.55
Cipla	1585.80	-8.80
Coal India	528.85	-3.35
Divis Lab	4911.45	10.65
Dr Reddys Lab	6969.05	-93.40
Eicher Motors	4933.55	20.00
Grasim Ind	2755.15	70.30
HCL Tech	1676.15	-1.10
HDFC Bank	1631.30	5.50
HDFC Life	726.00	1.45
Hero MotoCorp	5329.95	45.25
Hindalco	685.55	-0.05
Hind Unilever	2792.80	1.60
ICICI Bank	1191.10	16.25
IndusInd Bank	1381.90	-2.10
Infosys	1880.25	7.55
ITC	504.55	-0.85
JSW Steel	933.25	7.45
Kotak Bank	1821.50	8.55
L&T	3606.50	10.45
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5704.40	-9.05
M&M	2732.95	-36.45
Maruti Suzuki	12276.35	55.40
NestleIndia	2551.00	-0.75
NTPC	403.35	-5.60
ONGC	324.35	-3.35
PowerGrid Corp	334.00	-2.65
Reliance Ind	2996.25	-1.10
SBI Life	1795.25	-5.35
State Bank	820.30	4.75
Shriram Finance Ltd.	3143.60	-15.45
Sun Pharma	1750.65	-14.00
TataConsumerProduct	1205.80	28.25
Tata Motors	1068.45	-16.75
Tata Steel	154.14	2.22
TCS	4502.00	-49.50
Tech Mahindra	1611.25	6.60
Titan	3604.40	44.00
UltraTech Cement	11309.40	108.50
Wipro	519.00	-7.35

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 22

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.75	84.07
Euro	93.24	93.60
British Pound	109.76	110.19
Japanese Yen (100)	57.35	57.57
Chinese Yuan	11.73	11.78
Swiss Franc	98.26	98.64
Singapore Dollar	64.01	64.27
Canadian Dollar	61.61	61.86
Malaysian Ringitt	19.12	19.21
Australian Dollar	56.35	56.57

Source:Indian Bank

DICV unveils BharatBenz heavy-duty rigid trucks

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV) introduced BharatBenz heavy-duty rigid trucks in two configurations - 250HP and 950Nm and 306HP and 1200Nm.

The trucks will offer new payload applications such as bitumen, bulker, petroleum, oil and lubricants, DICV said.

'Q1 GDP growth may be at 6%, a 6-quarter low'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

'Urban consumer confidence saw a surprising downtick in the May round of the RBI's survey'

India's GDP growth is likely to have slowed to a six-quarter low of 6% in the April-June period, rating agency ICRA reckoned, citing a decline in urban consumers' confidence levels as well as a dip in government capital expenditure.

Gross Value Added (GVA) is also expected to have eased to 5.7% in the first quarter (Q1), from 6.3% in the previous quarter, with a slowdown in industrial activity driving most of the decline.

While growth in industry GVA is projected at 6.4% in Q1, down from 8.4% in January-March period, services GVA expansion is pegged at 6.5%, compared with 6.7% in the preceding three months. ICRA projected a minor uptick in farm GVA from 0.6% in the final quarter of last fiscal year to 1% in Q1.

"Urban consumer confidence reported a surprising downtick in the May 2024 (and July 2024) rounds of the central bank's consumer confidence survey," ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar noted. "The heat wave also affected footfalls in various services sectors, even as it boosted electricity demand," she added, terming the blip in the first quarter a 'transient moderation'.

Axis MF unveils fund to invest in consumption stocks

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Axis Mutual Fund has unveiled an 'Axis Consumption Fund' for investments in equities of consumption stocks.

The new fund offer (NFO) opens on August 23 and closes on September 6. The fund is an open-ended equity scheme.

"The Axis Consumption Fund offers investors an opportunity to participate in this unfolding trend and aims to build a robust portfolio that captures this dynamic growth," said Ashish Gupta, Chief Investment Officer, Axis AMC.

'Add new airports in India air-service pact'

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Brian Torrey

Singapore International Airlines' low-cost arm Scoot wants new airports and markets to be added in India's air-service agreements, allowing it to expand its India network.

"There are limitations between India and Singapore in the bilaterals," Brian Torrey, GM - India and West Asia told the media here. "It doesn't include new airports. There are markets that are growing and have potential, but are not included in the agreement. When it changes, we will be ready."

Airlines from Singapore have exhausted the number of seats they are allowed to deploy on Indian routes under the pact.

The demand comes at a time when the national capital region and Mumbai metropolitan region will each get second airports at Noida and Navi Mumbai early next year.

Mr. Torrey called both cities "dream destinations" and rued that the airline's market was restricted.

Badra Estates to enter local coffee market

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Badra Estates will introduce four varieties: three pure coffees and a coffee-chicory blend

Badra Estates, a Chikmagaluru-based plantation that has been growing more than 40 varieties of specialty coffee beans for the international market since 1943, is now foraying into the fresh and ground coffee markets in India.

"We have been growing coffee for generations, for the world," said MD Jacob Mammen. "Now, we see India emerging as a serious coffee consumer, with young people showing interest in diverse coffees and with that a coffee culture emerging as a lifestyle. We know India is ready for our products."

Badra Estates' Badra Coffee will introduce four varieties domestically on August 24. These include three pure coffees and a coffee-chicory blend: Temple Mountain (Arabica), Misty Heights (grown in the elevations of Baba Budangiri), Kaapi Nirvana (filter) and a blend named Dakshin Fusion.

But, Mr. Mammen cautioned, coffee growing was becoming a tough proposition globally, with unpredictable weather conditions, droughts and floods, shortage of labour and uncertain market conditions.

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Parishrama Bhavan, 6th Floor, 5-9-58/B, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad, PIN:500004. Telangana. Phone:23237625/26 Fax:040-23240205, Email:vcmd@tgiic.telangana.gov.in
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) (2nd Call)
RFP No.05/CE/2024-25, Dated:22/08/2024
Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited (TGIIC), the nodal agency of Government of Telangana for development of industrial & other allied infrastructure in the State, re-invites bids from reputed Developers firms with relevant experience for "Development of 5-Star Luxury Hotel with Trade Centre at Raidurgam (V), Serilingampally (M), Rangareddy (D), Telangana on Joint Development Basis".
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Sd/-
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R.O. No.:357-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25, Date:22.08.2024

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग वृत्त- दौसा (राज.)
क्रमांक पत. / निविदा / 2024-25 / 1835 दिनांक :- 14.08.2024
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Chief Purchase Officer/MM,Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd Floor, Multi Storey Building, The Mall, PSPCL invites E-tender of 2060 Nos,Single Phase, 25 kVA, ISI Marked, EEL-1, Oil immersed, CRGO/ Amorphous core, Aluminium wound, distribution transformers complete with fittings as per PSPCL specifications & conforming to IS 1180 Part-1 (2014) & IS 2026 (with latest amendments). For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 23.08.2024 onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
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1) Availability of Bid documents : **26.08.2024 @ 17:00 Hrs onwards. 2)** Last date for bid submission : **04.09.2024 @ 17:00 Hrs. 3)** Opening of Technical Bids : **05.09.2024 @ 17:30 Hrs. 4)** Pre-Bid meeting : **30.08.2024 @ 11:30 Hrs. 5)** Last date for submission of Queries : **30.08.2024 before 11:00 Hrs.** Pre bid meeting Venue : **Office of Chief General Manager, Projects, Corporate Office, BESCOM, K.R. Circle, Bangalore-560 001.**
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LONDON

U.K. drug regulator approves Alzheimer's drug Leqembi

Britain's drug regulator authorised the Alzheimer's drug Leqembi on Thursday, saying it's the first medicine to show some impact in slowing the progression of the disease. But the U.K. government likely won't be paying for it after an agency said that the benefits of Leqembi "cannot be considered good value for the taxpayer". AP

JAKARTA

Thousands of Indonesians attempt to storm Parliament in protest

AFP

Indonesian police fired tear gas and water cannon to disperse thousands of protesters who attempted to storm Parliament on Thursday after they tore down a section of fence and threw stones at police. The unrest forced the legislature to delay a vote on controversial changes to election laws. AP

LAHORE

Two children killed as gunmen open fire at school van in Pakistan

AFP

Gunmen opened fire on a school van in Pakistan on Thursday, killing two girls and wounding six others, including the driver who was the target of the attack, police said. The children were on their way to school when the attack happened in a sparsely populated part of Attock city in the country's Punjab province. AFP

TEHRAN

Iran Parliament approves all members of President's Cabinet

AP

Iran's hard-line Parliament on Wednesday approved all members of reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian's Cabinet, the first time in over two decades a leader has been able to get all of his officials through the body. The approval marks an early win for Mr. Pezeshkian, a longtime lawmaker. AP

Walz pledges 'commitment to the common good' at DNC

The Minnesota Governor turns his fire on Republican nominee Donald Trump, accusing him of spending 'all day insulting people and blaming others'; polls show Harris moving slightly ahead

Agence France-Presse
CHICAGO

Tim Walz introduced himself to millions of Americans on a star-studded night at the Democratic National Convention on Wednesday, as he accepted the nomination to be Kamala Harris's White House running mate.

In a whirlwind quarter-hour address, Mr. Walz raced through the story of his middle-class upbringing in small town Nebraska, where he worked on the family farm, and described his experience teaching students who inspired him to go into politics. "They saw in me what I had hoped to instill in them: a commitment to the common good, an understanding that we're all in this together, and the belief that a single person can make a real difference for their neighbours," he said as the crowd chanted "Coach Walz!"

Grand reception: Tim Walz and wife Gwen react during the Democratic National Convention in Illinois on Wednesday. AP

The gloves came off as the 60-year-old Minnesota Governor turned his fire on Republican nominee Donald Trump, accusing him of spending "all day insulting people and blaming others".

But Mr. Walz devoted much of his speech at the United Centre in Chicago to making the case for Harris.

"She's taken on the predators and fraudsters. She's taken down the transnational gangs... She has never hesitated to reach across that aisle if it meant improving your lives, and she's always done it with energy, with passion and with joy."

The relatively unknown state-level official brings a Midwestern everyman vibe to Ms. Harris's surging campaign against Mr. Trump that was central to his speech.

Polls show the election remains close, but Ms. Harris is moving slightly ahead.

Sri Lanka SC says Ranil guilty of 'arbitrary and unlawful' conduct

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Supreme Court on Thursday found President Ranil Wickremesinghe guilty of "arbitrary and unlawful" conduct, in the postponement of local body elections scheduled last year, even as he campaigns hard for a mandate in the September 21 presidential contest.

President Wickremesinghe rose to the island nation's top office in July 2022, not winning a national election, but through an extraordinary parliamentary vote. He replaced President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who fled the country and resigned amid mass protests triggered by a severe financial meltdown.

While local government elections were due soon after – they would have given citizens a say after the country's economy crashed – the Wickremesinghe administration maintained it could not afford to spend on an election amid urgent efforts towards economic revival.

Under fire

The elections to Sri Lanka's local authorities, scheduled to be held in March 2023 and later April 2023, were postponed. The Election Commission said reasons for the move were "beyond" its control and Mr. Wickremesinghe, who is also Finance Minister, came under sharp attack for "blocking funds" needed for the election.

The government's position coincided with painful austerity measures, including a steep rise in indirect taxes, introduced by the

Ranil Wickremesinghe

government as part of its International Monetary Fund-led programme aimed at recovery. Crisis-hit citizens, who were reeling under the impact of high living costs, growing poverty, and joblessness, came under greater pressure.

Opposition politicians and rights groups filed multiple Fundamental Rights petitions in the Supreme Court, challenging the government's position that they said violated the Constitution. A five-member bench led by Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya on Thursday directed the Election Commission to hold the local government election "at the earlier possible", while holding the "executive branch" liable for the infringement of citizens' fundamental rights.

Reform agenda

The ruling comes at a time when Mr. Wickremesinghe is appealing to Sri Lankan voters to back him, so he can continue his "economic reform" agenda. He faces strong opponents in Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa and Leader of the Opposition National People's Power alliance Anura Kumara Dissanayake, who are fierce critics of Mr. Wickremesinghe's policies.

Thailand confirms new mpox strain, first in Asia

Agence France-Presse
BANGKOK

Thailand on Thursday confirmed Asia's first known case of a new, deadlier strain of mpox in a patient who had travelled to the kingdom from Africa.

The patient landed in Bangkok on August 14 and was sent to hospital with mpox symptoms. The Department of Disease Control said laboratory tests on the 66-year-old European confirmed he was infected with mpox Clade 1b.

Modi attempts a tricky balance in Kyiv, as U.S., Russia watch closely

NEWS ANALYSIS

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Balancing India's position on the Russia-Ukraine war will be at the top of the agenda for Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he arrives by train in Kyiv on Friday morning, for the first such high-level visit from India since the war began in 2022. While making the trip, six weeks after he visited Moscow and met with President Vladimir Putin is a part of that process, the outcomes of the visit will also be weighed carefully, say experts, given Ukraine's "disappointments" with India's position in the past.

In particular, India's position on the war in Ukraine, Mr. Modi's response to Ukraine's requests for reconstruction and equipment supplies, as well as a possible Indian role in ending the conflict and starting a peace process will be watched most closely, both in Moscow and in Washington. Mr. Modi is one of very few leaders to have personally visited both Kyiv and Moscow during the war (apart from leaders of Turkey, South Africa, Indonesia, Guinea-Bissau and Hungary).

"The visit comes at a time when the Swiss peace summit failed to decisively impact the war, European nations are increasingly worried about the rising costs associated with the war, and the U.S. is preoccupied with its domestic politics," said Happymon Jacob, professor at JNU and Director of the Council for Strategic and Defence Research.

"This context presents an opportunity – if the Indian establishment chooses to pursue it – to initiate a new global conversation about bringing the warring parties to the negotiation table. India could play a small, though not insignificant, role in that process."

Narendra Modi

The optics of Mr. Modi's Ukraine visit, expected to span about 6-8 hours in the war-hit capital of Kyiv, will be significant. While in Moscow, Mr. Modi had paid respects at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and not visited any memorial for Russian soldiers in the war, this may be more difficult in Kyiv, given the significant casualties and toll the war has taken in Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had been particularly critical of PM Modi's embrace of Mr. Putin in July, calling it a "huge disappointment and a devastating blow to peace efforts".

Position at the UN

India's abstention from all UN resolutions critical of Russia's actions since 2022, and its decision to disassociate itself from the outcome document at the Swiss Peace conference in June was also received with some dismay in Kyiv.

According to Manav Sachdeva, a "goodwill ambassador" for Ukraine, appointed by President Zelenskyy to promote the "Grain from Ukraine" initiative after Russia's blockade of wheat exports, India could still seize the "strategic opportunity" in ensuring that Russia attends the next peace summit due to be held in November, and offering to mediate or promote dialogue. "India can play a critical role in facilitating peace, thereby reinforcing its global influence and commitment to a stable international order," Mr. Sachdeva, a former UN official who has served in several conflict areas and is now based in Delhi, told *The Hindu*.

He said India's willingness to participate in Ukraine's reconstruction will be key to future cooperation, especially in the areas of infrastructure, technology and healthcare. Thus far, while it has provided tents and medicines to Ukraine, New Delhi has yet to approve exports of items like telecom towers, medical equipment and construction and digging machinery, that have been requested, including during Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba's Delhi visit in March this year.

Sport

Top seed Ganguly moves into the sole lead

NATIONAL CHESS

P.K. Ajith Kumar
GURUGRAM

The last of his six titles at India's premier domestic chess tournament came 16 years ago. Surya Shekhar Ganguly is running a strong – and so far flawless – campaign for the seventh.

The top seed moved into the sole lead after the sixth round of the 61st National chess championship at the RPS International School here on Thursday.

He defeated Neelash Saha to take his tally to full six points.

Continuing the Bengali theme, Aronyak Ghosh and Sayantan Das are sharing the second position with 5.5 points each.

Taking advantage: Ganguly made Neelash pay the price for too many weak moves. P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Five rounds remain.

Aronyak held defending champion S.P. Sethuraman to a draw in 31 moves of a King's Indian Defence game, which had an opposite-coloured bishop ending on the second board.

On the top board against Ganguly, Neelash paid the price for making far too many weak moves in succession with his queen and rook in their Queen's Gambit Declined game.

Ganguly is too good a player to miss such an opportunity and had his opponent in a mating net.

Black resigned on the 38th move.

Important results (sixth round): Surya Shekhar Ganguly (PSPB) 6 bt Neelash Saha (RSPB) 5; Aronyak Ghosh (RSPB) 5.5 drew with S.P. Sethuraman (PSPB) 5.

Karthik Venkataraman (AP) 5 drew with Diptayan Ghosh (RSPB) 5; G. Aakash (TN) 4.5 lost to Sayantan Das (RSPB) 5.5.

Arjun Adireddy (TS) 4.5 drew with P. Iniyan (TN) 4.5; Sankalp Gupta (Mah) 4.5 drew with Utkal Sahoo (Odi) 4.5.

B. Vignesh (TN) 4.5 drew with Mitrabha Guha (RSPB) 4.5; Vignesh Adwaith Vemula (TS) 4.5 drew with N.R. Vignesh 4.5; N.R. Visakh (RSPB) 4.5 drew with A. Balkishan (Kar) 4.5.

Raihaan Zahid (TS) 4 lost to Deep Sengupta (PSPB) 5.

Himal Gusain (RSPB) 5 bt Nihal Swarna (AP) 4; N.R. Jaidambareesh (TN) 4 lost to M.R. Lalith Babu (AP) 5; C.R.G. Krishna (RSPB) 5 bt Gyana Sai Santhosh (AP) 4; Swapnil Dhopade (Mah) 5 bt Prathamesh Sherla (Mah) 4.

Puneet Verma (Pun) 4.5 drew with J. Deepan Chakravarthy (RSPB) 4.5.

Aruna fined for non-appearance, approaches ITTF Tribunal

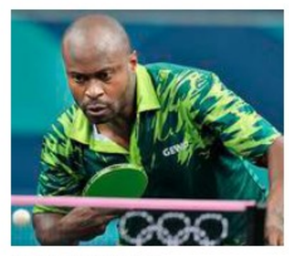
TABLE TENNIS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Nigeria's Quadri Aruna, ranked 20 in the world, has approached the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Tribunal after World Table Tennis (WTT), created by ITTF, levied a fine of $5,000.

This after the player expressed his inability to participate in the World team championships in February and WTT Champions event in March, citing ill-health and club commitments. Reportedly, WTT is of the view that Aruna is not giving it the importance it deserves.

He has refused to pay the fine and argued he had informed WTT well in advance of his non-availability in the Worlds and World Champions Tour.



Quadri Aruna. AP

The 36-year-old four-time Olympian said he is not averse to approaching the Court of Administration for Sport (CAS) if he doesn't get justice from the ITTF Tribunal.

Speaking to *The Hindu* via a video call on Thursday, Aruna, who is representing U Mumba TT in the Ultimate Table Tennis League, said: "I really believe WTT has framed bad rules. They make things so expensive for the players. Table tennis was never this expensive when ITTF was involved in organising tournaments.

"There used to be lots of players on the World Tour. Now, everyone is losing money on the WTT Tour. Everybody is complaining but nobody is coming out and talking about it.

"They fined me $5,000 even after I told them in advance about my club commitments. I get my salary from my club and I can pay WTT only when I get it. I have approached the ITTF Tribunal and the case is pending. I may go to CAS if I don't get justice here."

CMYK

M BG-BGE

NO 400

Max Verstappen says he's closer to the end of his career than the start

GETTY IMAGES

Heading into his 200th career Formula 1 race, Max Verstappen is clear he doesn't want to stick around for No. 400. At the age of 26, Verstappen is the youngest F1 driver to reach the 200-race milestone. "We passed halfway for sure, but it's been already of course an incredible ride."

NO RETURN

Sussex relieves Pujara after signing Daniel Hughes for 2025 season

GETTY IMAGES

Cheteshwar Pujara will not return to Sussex for next year's County Championship after the English club side opted to relieve him to retain the services of Australian Daniel Hughes. Hughes will be available for all Championship and T20 Vitality Blast matches next season.

IN THE FRAY

Zaheer in talks with Super Giants for mentorship role

FILE PHOTO: M. KARUNAKARAN

Former India pacer Zaheer Khan is in contention to assume the mentorship role of Lucknow Super Giants ahead of the next season of the Indian Premier League. The 45-year-old was head of global development at Mumbai Indians (MI) and before that held the position of director of cricket for the franchise from 2018-2022.

ON THE LOOKOUT

ICC to get new woman director as Indra Nooyi's six-year term ends

REUTERS

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is on the lookout for a new independent woman director after PepsiCo head Indra Nooyi's six-year tenure came to an end last month. ICC is also set to get a new chairman after incumbent Greg Barclay's refusal to seek a third term. Nooyi has completed her full term.

Challengers pass the Patriots test in opener

The defending champion overcomes the loss in the first match to put it past the Jaipur outfit; Yangzi wins both her matches, including the mixed doubles in the company of Harmeet

UTT

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Defending champion Goa Challengers began its Ultimate Table Tennis League campaign on a rousing note, outplaying debutant Jaipur Patriots 9-6 at the Nehru Indoor Stadium here on Thursday.

Goa and Jaipur shared the spoils in the first two singles matches. Challengers captain Harmeet started exceptionally well but fell behind and lost to Cho Seungmin of Jaipur 11-2, 1-11, 5-11 in the opening men's singles contest.

Goa pulled one back through Yangzi Liu in women's singles. Ranked 34th in the world, Yangzi eased past Jaipur's Suthasini Sawettabut, ranked 19 spots below her, 11-3, 11-6, 11-4.

The crucial third match – mixed doubles – went the distance. Harmeet and Yangzi played the waiting game, eschewing flashy shots unlike the Patriots pair of Ronit Bhanja and Suthasini, to script a 11-1, 6-11, 11-7 win.

Mihai Bobocica of Goa overcame Ronit in a battle that saw the Italian get better as the match progressed. After the change of ends, and at 5-3 in the third and deciding game, Mihai raced away to a 11-7, 11-7, 11-5 victory. The result effectively sealed the tie in Challengers' favour.

On the ball: Yangzi put Challengers on course with a win over Suthasini. M. VEDHAN

Nithyashree posts win

In the fifth rubber, Patriots' Nithyashree Mani defeated Challengers' Yashawini Ghorpade 11-10, 5-11, 11-7 and won her team crucial points which could prove useful at a later stage.

The match of the day was the one between Cho and Harmeet. The Indian served and attacked with gusto to take the first game. Cho, who was part of the Korean men's team which won the bronze in the World championships in Chengdu in 2022, showed why he was a dangerous opponent.

Spin-heavy

Armed with a powerful forehand loaded with topspin and backed by a variety of serves with side-spin and back-spin, the Korean took a 7-1 lead in the second and went on to win the game without losing another point.

In the decider, Cho's superior third-ball attack and backhand winners didn't give Harmeet any chance of making a comeback.

Udhayanidhi Stalin, Tamil Nadu Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development, inaugurated the event.

The results:

Goa Challengers bt Jaipur Patriots 9-6 (Harmeet Desai lost to Cho Seungmin 11-2, 1-11, 5-11; Yangzi Liu bt Suthasini Sawettabut 11-3, 11-6, 11-4; Harmeet & Yangzi bt Ronit Bhanja & Suthasini 11-1, 6-11, 11-7; Mihai Bobocica bt Ronit 8-11, 11-7, 11-5; Yashaswini Ghorpade lost to Nithyashree Mani 10-11, 11-5, 7-11).

Archana Kamath quits table tennis to focus on academics

Studies over sport: Archana does not want to postpone her academic pursuits any further. AFP

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Archana Kamath, who was part of the Indian women's table tennis team which reached the quarterfinals at the Paris Olympics, said she is retiring from competitive sport to focus on higher studies.

In a statement on Thursday, the 24-year-old from Bengaluru ranked 122 in the world, said she was moving away from the sport purely because of her love for academics.

"It was not an easy decision for me to make, but if I have retired from competitive table tennis it is only because of my love for academics.

"Table tennis is an amazing sport that I have had the privilege of playing for a long time, and my love for it continues... I have never thought about nor played with financial returns in mind."

Archana, whose parents are doctors specialising in ophthalmology, said both table tennis and academics have played a huge part in her life and that both have made her the person she is.

"I took a decision to pursue my higher education after the Paris Olympics by enrolling in a full-time two-year Master's programme in Public Policy.

"I felt that now is the time. I did not want to postpone my academic pursuits any further."

The former National champion thanked Indian Oil Corporation, Olympic Gold Quest, SAI/ TOPS, Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports (DYES, Karnataka) and all her coaches in her journey for helping her.

Venues announced for India-Eng. Tests

Agencies
LONDON

Indian men's cricket team will start its next cycle of World Test Championship with a five-Test series against England with the opening game scheduled at the seamer-friendly Headingley on June 20.

The next WTC cycle will run from 2025 to 2027 and it starts right after the final of the current cycle which will also be held in England.

The schedule:
First Test: June 20-24: Leeds;
Second: July 2-6: Birmingham;
Third: July 10-14: Lord's, London;
Fourth: July 23-27: Manchester;
Fifth : Jul 31-Aug 4, The Oval, London.

'Home': Lord's cricket ground. GETTY IMAGES

Lord's to host first women's Test in 2026

Press Trust of India
LONDON

Lord's, the 'home of cricket', will host its first-ever Women's Test between India and England in 2026, the ECB announced on Thursday.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said that after playing a three-match ODI series against hosts England in July 2025, India will return in 2026 for a one-off Test.

India will travel to England for a white-ball tour in 2025. A five-match T20 series will be followed by three ODIs.

The first match of the T20I series will be played at Nottingham on June 28, the second at Bristol on July 1 and the third at The Oval on July 4.

The fourth and fifth T20Is will be played at Old Trafford and Edgbaston on July 9 and 12.

The first of the three ODIs will be at Southampton on July 16, the second at Lord's on July 19 and the final match of the series will be at Chester-le-Street on July 22.

Minnu, Priya make the Aussies dance to their tunes

Press Trust of India
GOLD COAST

Spinners Minnu Mani and Priya Mishra shared nine wickets between them as India-A bundled out Australia-A for 212 to gain a massive upper hand on the first day of the four-day one-off women's Test here on Thursday.

Skipper and off-spinner Minnu (five for 58) and leg-spinner Priya (four for 58) put the Australian batting unit in a tailspin as it lost all the 10 wickets to the slow bowlers. Opener Georgia Voll (71, 95b, 12x4) was fluent during her stay but she fell to left-arm spinner Mannat Kashyap as Australia slumped to 94 for four.

In reply, India-A reached 100 for two at stumps, 112 behind Australia-A's total. It lost Priya Punia (7) early and Shubha Satheesh went without contributing much.

The scores: Australia-A 212 in 65.5 overs (Georgia Voll 71, Minnu Mani 5/58, Priya Mishra 4/58) vs India-A 100/2 in 36 overs (Shweta Sehrawat 40 batting).
Toss: Australia-A.

Brook and Smith revive England after Asitha strikes for Sri Lanka

Rising to the occasion: Smith showed control and poise as he bailed out England. GETTY IMAGES

Agence France-Presse
MANCHESTER

Sri Lanka's Asitha Fernando rocked England with three top-order wickets before Harry Brook's half-century and Jamie Smith's unbeaten 72 left the first Test at Old Trafford intriguingly poised here on Thursday.

Fighting back

After rain washed out the morning session, England was 259 for six – a lead of 23 runs – at stumps on the second day.

Asitha Fernando had figures of three for 68, having dismissed opener Ben Duckett and Ollie Pope for just six in his first innings as England captain before also removing key batter Joe Root for 42.

But the 25-year-old Brook made 56 while fellow rising star Jamie Smith was unbeaten on 72 as England regained control.

The scores:

Sri Lanka 236 in 74 overs vs. England 259/6 in 61 overs (Root 42, Brook 56, Smith 72 batting, Asitha Fernando 3/68).

Rizwan and Shakeel guide Pakistan to a mammoth total

Centurions: Shakeel and Rizwan. AP

Agence France-Presse
RAWALPINDI

Mohammad Rizwan and Saud Shakeel scored brilliant centuries to guide Pakistan to an imposing 448 for six declared before Bangladesh closed the second day on 27 for no loss on Thursday.

Rizwan's Test best

Rizwan's unbeaten 171 was his Test best and third century in the format while Shakeel's 141 was equally polished as the duo lifted Pakistan from a 16 for three on Wednesday.

Bangladesh openers Shadman Islam was 12 and Zakir Hasan on 11.

Bangladesh had pushed Pakistan on to the back foot, but it was Shakeel who repaired the innings with Saim Ayub (56) through a 98-run fourth wicket stand before another 240 runs were added for the next with Rizwan as Pakistan blunted Bangladesh's attack.

The scores: Pakistan 448/6 decl. in 113 overs (Ayub 56, Shakeel 141, Rizwan 171 n.o.) vs Bangladesh 27/0 in 12 overs.

Sinner could face Alcaraz again in the semifinals

US OPEN DRAW

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner has been placed in the same side of the draw as former champions Carlos Alcaraz and Daniil Medvedev for the US Open which begins next week. He will start his campaign against American Mackenzie McDonald.

Second seed and defending champion Novak Djokovic, who beat Medvedev in last year's final, is in the same half as German Alexander Zverev.

The draw raises the prospect of a possible semifinal clash between Sinner and Alcaraz who, in 2022, produced an epic five-hour 15-minute quarterfinal which concluded at 2:50 a.m. local time.

Spaniard Alcaraz won that battle and went on to win his first US Open title.

But to reach a rematch with Alcaraz, Italian Sinner may need to get past 2021 champion Medvedev in the quarterfinals.

Another epic? Alcaraz beat Sinner at Flushing Meadows in 2022, a five-hour-15-minute quarterfinal clash. FILE PHOTO

Djokovic will start against a qualifier and then play either fellow Serb Laslo Djere or Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff.

Djokovic, a four-time US Open winner, is bidding to clinch a record 25th Grand Slam title.

Last year's US Open semifinalist, Ben Shelton, will begin his bid against 2020 champion Dominic Thiem who is playing his final year on tour before retirement.

In the women's draw, World No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka and defending champion Coco Gauff have been drawn in the same half and could meet in the semifinals.

World No. 1 and 2022 champion Iga Swiatek's highest ranked potential semifinal opponent is fourth ranked Elena Rybakina.

The highlight match of the opening round sees four-time Grand Slam title winner Naomi Osaka, the champion at Flushing Meadows in 2018 and 2020, face number ten seed and 2017 French Open winner Jelena Ostapenko.

The clash will be Osaka's first at the US Open since becoming a mother.

INBRIEF

Defender Kalulu joins Juventus on loan from Milan

French defender Pierre Kalulu has joined Juventus on a season-long loan from AC Milan, the Turin giant announced on Wednesday. The 24-year-old made 112 appearances for Milan since signing in 2020 after coming through the academy at Ligue 1 club Lyon. Juventus has an option to buy Kalulu permanently for €14 million at the end of his loan.

Fulham signs Berge on five-year deal from Burnley

Fulham has signed Norway midfielder Sander Berge from Burnley on a five-year contract for an undisclosed fee, the Premier League club announced on Thursday. Berge joins Fulham following the departure of Joao Palhinha, who left for German giant Bayern Munich earlier in the summer transfer window. Berge, 26, could make his debut for Marco Silva's side against Leicester in the Premier League at Craven Cottage on Saturday.

Sathish goes down in second round of Japan Open

India's Sathish Kumar lost in three games to Thailand's Kantaphon Wangcharoen in the second round of the Japan Open Super 750 badminton tournament here on Thursday. The World No. 40 Wangcharoen defeated the 23-year-old Indian 18-21, 21-18, 21-8 in a match that lasted 70 minutes. Sathish had won his maiden BWF tournament in 2023, claiming the Odisha Masters Super 100.

Injury sidelines Olympic 800m champion Hodgkinson

Olympic 800m champion Keely Hodgkinson said on Wednesday that she was calling time on the rest of her season after suffering an injury. The 22-year-old runner became the third British woman to win Olympic 800m gold after Anne Packer in 1964 and Kelly Holmes in 2004 when she triumphed in Paris just over two weeks ago. It was her ninth win in nine races this season. "Unfortunately I picked up a small injury, but we achieved everything I had hoped to do this year, thank you for all the love and support!! see you on the track next year," she posted on *X*.

LIVE TELECAST

England vs Sri Lanka: 1st Test, day 3, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p.m.

Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 4 & 7 p.m.

KSCA Maharaja T20 Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 6.30 p.m.

LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 10.30 p.m. & 1 a.m. (Saturday)

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 12 a.m. (Saturday)

West Indies vs South Africa: 1st T20I, FanCode, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Maharaja Trophy — Warriors extend Lions' winless run

The Shivamogga side falls well short of the target after a below-par batting effort; Karun Nair top-scores again for the Mysore team

Centre-stage: C.A. Karthik took three wickets to cap a fine all-round performance that fetched him the player-of-the-match award. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Shivamogga Lions' winless streak in the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament continued with a 28-run loss to Mysore Warriors at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Thursday.

Opting to bowl first, the Lions restricted Warriors to a not-so-big 179-run total, with veteran pacer H.S. Sharath claiming four wickets (4/29). But a below-par batting effort meant that the Lions fell well short of the target.

For Mysore, skipper Karun Nair top-scored again with a rapid 45-run knock (23b, 6x4, 2x6). A slew of solid contributions from opener C.A. Karthik (30, 23b, 1x4, 3x6) and lower middle-order batters Sumit Kumar (28, 23b, 1x4, 2x6), Manoj Bhandage (23, 7b, 1x4, 3x4) and J. Suchith (22 n.o., 8b, 1x4, 2x6) carried the side to a competitive total. In reply, Shivamogga was propped by opener Nihal Ullal (46, 38b, 3x4, 3x6) and middle-order bat Abhinav Manohar (46, 29b, 2x4, 4x6) but received no support from the rest of the batting line-up.

Ullal and Abhinav, in fact, put on 70 runs for the fifth wicket to bail out Lions from 53 for four.

But their dismissals within eight runs of each other allowed the Warriors back into the game, an opportunity the latter lapped up in glee to record a fourth win from six matches. Karthik took three wickets, including that of Manohar, to cap a fine all-round performance that fetched him the player-of-the-match award.

The scores: Mysore Warriors 179 for seven in 20 overs (C.A. Karthik 30, Karun Nair 45, Sumit Kumar 28, H.S. Sharath 4/29) bt Shivamogga Lions 151 for nine in 20 overs (Nihal Ullal 46, Abhinav Manohar 46, Vidyadhar Patil 3/29, C.A. Karthik 3/31).

Bengaluru Blasters 144 in 20 overs (L.R. Chethan 30, Suraj Ahuja 38, M. Kranthikumar 39, Abhilash Shetty 4/9) bt Mangalore Dragons 138 for seven in 20 overs (Nikin Jose 61, Lochan Gowda 28).

Pratham fires an unbeaten riposte to Ali's big score

Fierce joust: Ali laid down the gauntlet with an entertaining century before Pratham replied in kind. E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
SALEM

S. Mohamed Ali hit thirteen fours and three sixes off the spinners as he got to 182 (267b, 20x4, 4x6) to help TNCA President's XI post 459 versus Railways on day two of the Group-B match in the second round of the Buchi Babu tournament at the Salem Cricket Foundation ground here on Thursday.

Ali's use of feet to the spinners was distinctive. He came down the track to smash a long-off four and a straight six off left-arm spinner Ayan Chaudhary, a straight six off left-arm spinner Raj Chaudhary, and a straight four off left-arm spinner Mohammad Saif.

When he stepped out to off-spinner Vishal Harsh, he converted the delivery into a full toss and sent it soaring for a six to cow corner. The 19-year-old never seemed unnerved.

Ali was the last wicket to fall as he holed out to long on for Ayan to complete his five-wicket haul.

In response, Railways got to 185 for two, courtesy of opener Pratham Singh's unbeaten 104 (136b, 13x4, 3x6).

The left-hander skipped down the pitch for his first two sixes – the first that brought up his fifty was an inside-out to off-spinner Ali, and the second a hoick to midwicket off the opposition skipper and left-arm spinner Siddharth.

He got to 99 with his third six – a slog sweep off leg-spinner Jhathavedh – and paddle-swept Ali for four to bring up his breezy century.

The scores At Salem: TNCA President's XI 459 in 137.3 overs (R. Vimal Khumar 42, K.T.A. Madhava Prasad 47, S. Mohamed Ali 182, C. Andre Siddarth 81, Ayan Chaudhary 5/143) vs. Railways 185/2 in 44 overs (Pratham Singh 104 batting, Mohammad Saif 43 batting).

At Tirunelveli: Jharkhand 178 & 24/3 in 11 overs vs Hyderabad 293 in 85 overs (Rahul Singh 56, Hima Teja 30, Rahul Radesh 39, T. Ravi Teja 33, C.V. Milind 58 n.o., Vikas Singh 3/63, Manishi 3/47).

At Dindigul: Baroda 255 & 254 in 58.3 overs (Kinit Patel 47, Mitesh Patel 86, Raj Limbani 62, Abid Mushtaq 5/66, Sahil Lotra 4/64) vs Jammu & Kashmir 114 in 32 overs (Paras Dogra 36 n.o., Ninad Rathva 6/39, Mahesh Pithiya 3/55)& 14/0 in 5 overs.

At Coimbatore: TNCA XI 393 in 115.2 overs (B. Indrajith 167) vs Haryana 182/6 in 62 overs (Dheeru Singh 61 batting, Jayant Yadav 51 batting).

Intention is to go after the balls in my slot: Ali

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
SALEM

Ali. E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

Mohamed Ali drew flak for his dismissal on his debut innings (5) versus Railways in the Ranji Trophy last year at Coimbatore. He skipped down the track to left-arm spinner Akash Pandey and played a shot, but the ball took the inside-edge on to his pad to pop up to short leg.

On Thursday, the same down-the-track manoeuvre to the spinners was the highlight in his 182 versus Railways again. This time, it always clicked.

"I received a lot of criticism for it (dismissal on Ranji debut). A lot of people said that I shouldn't have played that shot at that time.

"But I did that a lot today (Thursday) and it clicked. It just didn't click that day. My intention is that I should go after the balls in my slot.

"For this type of wicket here, it is imperative that we get as many runs as possible. I like manipulating the field. When I play shots like that, the fielders will be pushed back and it becomes easier to take singles," said the 19-year-old.

First semifinal between NE rivals shifted to Shillong

DURAND CUP

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

The first semifinal of the 133rd edition of the Durand Cup football, featuring NorthEast United FC and Shillong Lajong FC, has been shifted out of the city. The Durand Cup organising committee has decided to hold the match between the two North-East rivals at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Shillong on Monday, August 26 apparently to accommodate the demands of the fans of the two contesting sides.

The match was scheduled to be held on August 25 at Salt Lake Stadium, which is now left with the second semifinal (on August 27) and the final on August 31.

Previously, the most anticipated event in Indian football, the Kolkata football derby, was abandoned owing to security reasons following large scale protests against the rape and murder of a doctor in R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital.

"The decision to make this change has been taken in light of the results of the quarterfinal matches held yesterday. Both matches saw thrilling performances from Northeast United FC and Shillong Lajong FC, whose victories have fuelled immense excitement and anticipation among their fan bases. In response to overwhelming requests from supporters of both these teams, and in recognition of the traditional significance of the chosen venue as a stronghold of support for these clubs, we have decided to relocate the semifinal match," said a statement from the organiser.

Gukesh survives against Pragg

CHESS

Press Trust of India
SAINT LOUIS (USA)

World Championship challenger D. Gukesh survived by the skin of his teeth against compatriot R. Praggnanandhaa, drawing a lost endgame in the third round of the Sinquefield Cup – the final leg of the Grand Chess Tour.

Tour leader Alireza Firouzja of France got lucky against French teammate Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, drawing in a clear worse position via repetition of moves. Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan also pushed for quite some time.

But a blunder cost him as Fabiano Caruana was able to turn things around and score his first victory of the tournament.

The other winner was Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia, who had it easy against Dutchman Anish Giri, who could not keep track after an unconventional opening by the former.

Reigning world champion Ding Liren of China also created enough chances for himself against Wesley So, only to blow them away in no time.

With six more rounds to come in the 10-player double round-robin tournament, Firouzja and Nepomniachtchi share the lead with two points out of a possible three.

Gukesh will take on Firouzja in the fourth round while Praggnanandhaa faces Giri.

The results, third round: Fabiano Caruana (USA, 1.5) bt Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 1); Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 2) drew with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 1.5); Ding Liren (Chn, 1.5) drew with Wesley So (USA, 1.5) Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus, 2) bt Anish Giri (Ned, 1); R. Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 1.5) drew with D. Gukesh (Ind, 1.5).

BTC and HPSL to sponsor the Derby

BENGALURU: Arvind Katarki, chairman of the meeting and senior Steward of the Bangalore Turf Club, said during a media briefing here that HPSL will sponsor the Derby jointly with Bangalore Turf Club Limited and the race will be titled as The HPSL Bangalore Summer Derby.

Twelve runners will vie for honour in this blue riband of the summer season in what looks to be a competitive race.

With total stakes of Rs. 2 crore the winner of the HPSL Bangalore Summer Derby will take home Rs. 98 lakh and trophy value of Rs. 1.50 lakh.

Katarki also said the bookmakers shall be back this weekend and the Government of Karnataka is clearing the proposal to issue licences to them, with normalcy returning to BTC this weekend.

Suresh Paladagu representing HPSL said, "HPSL is happy to sponsor the Bangalore Summer Derby 2024. With a vision to broaden the sport's appeal and reach a wider audience, HPSL is creating an ecosystem around equestrian and high octane sports and leisure.

"HPSL sports and Leisure Pvt Ltd is an equestrian global company, founded to revolutionise the equestrian sports industry, combining traditional and modern approaches. The HPSL has a deep-rooted passion for equestrian sports and has emerged as a beacon of innovation and opportunity. HPSL and its group companies are associated with all turf clubs in India."

HI president Tirkey keen to start preparations for 2028 Olympics

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

Following the Indian men's hockey team's second consecutive bronze medal finish in the Paris Olympics, Hockey India (HI) has started thinking about the side's preparations for the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

A day after the members of the bronze medal winning team were felicitated by its principal sponsor Odisha government, HI president Dilip Tirkey, a former India captain, spoke about his federation's vision.

"We have to start preparing for the 2028 Olympics now. After the 2026 Asian Games, which is a qualifying event for the Olympics, the coach and the selectors have to sit together and decide how many players of the team can actually play in Los Angeles," Tirkey told *The Hindu* on Thursday.

While goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh has announced his retirement, three players of the present team are already in their 30s and nine will be beyond 30 years in four years' time.

"Besides the Olympics, we have to think about performing well in major events such as the World Cup and the FIH Pro League. The immediate challenge is the Asian Champions Trophy for men (Hulunbuir City, China, September 8-17) and women (yet to be decided)."

Memorabilia: HI president Tirkey, left, and some players present a jersey signed by Paris Olympics bronze-winning team to former Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik on Thursday. ANI

Tirkey said the revival of Hockey India League (HIL) would promote youngsters for the future. "The young players and domestic coaches will be benefited. The addition of the women's competition is important. It will make the HIL bigger."

HI needs to handle some challenges related to HIL, which was launched in 2013 and lasted for five editions. "The bigger challenge is making it successful in the long term. The franchises have been more or less finalised. The Odisha Government continues to be our backbone. I hope corporate houses will participate enthusiastically to support hockey," said Tirkey.

In order to make the domestic events more attractive, HI has decided to make some of these compulsory, including the National championships, for all the players. Now it may have to revisit its decision.

"We had decided that the National championships and two domestic events would be mandatory for everyone. We are aware that the international events have increased. With the HIL coming on our calendar, we have to rethink it. Nevertheless, participation in the National championships may still be mandatory," said Tirkey.

The former India captain said the introduction of junior and sub-junior inter-zonal championships this year would provide the youngsters more competitive exposure. "More exposure will sharpen the skills of our under-17 and 19 players," said Tirkey.